

الإمارات

IRAN NEWS



58-Year-Old Ghanaian, Kofi Annan, Is U.N.'s New Secretary-General. He Has Spent 30 Years Serving the World Body in Various Posts

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A HAMAS Member Attending a Rally in Gaza Dec. 13. 15,000 Celebrated 9th Anniversary of Founding of HAMAS and Martyrdom of Its Leaders



VOL. III. No. 628 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

PG Security Inseparable from Iran's Security

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said here yesterday that the security of the Persian Gulf is inseparable from that of Iran.

"Any aggression on and attempts to make Islamic Iran insecure will make the Persian Gulf more insecure for the enemies of the Iranian nation, particularly those living in glasshouses," the commander in chief of the Armed Forces warned.

In a meeting with thousands of commanders and personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Ayatollah Khamenei said that the Iranian people are protecting the security of the Persian Gulf.

"Neither the people nor the

government of Iran has ever caused insecurity in the Persian Gulf but some powers inside and outside the region have caused troubles and insecurity for us and others," the Supreme Leader said.

The outside powers and their followers in the region should know that the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be separated from that of the region, the Leader said, warning "the Iranian nation will never let anyone's blow go unanswered and will vehemently respond to any measures of satanic powers to make the region insecure."

Terming the diplomacy of the U.S. administration as "weak and invalid", Ayatollah Khamenei said that Washington's attempts to

find faults with Iran carry no weight.

The stability of the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf depends mostly on Islamic Iran and its Muslim nation, the Leader said, adding "the day when Iran enjoys security and calm, the region will be calm too."

The enemies of Islam are always trying to engage the sacred Islamic system in a bid to make its bulwark shaky and penetrable, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said.

Referring to the tragic events being created by the U.S. administration and its Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the four corners of the world, the Leader castigated Washington and other

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Islamic Party Claims Responsibility for Attack on Saddam's Son

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AFP) - An outlawed Iraqi Shia Muslim Party yesterday claimed it was responsible for a failed assassination attempt on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday.

"One of our commandos on Thursday carried out the justice of God and the people against an enemy of God and the people, Uday Saddam al-Takriti, who has sown terror and corruption in Iraq," the Al-Dawa al-Islamiya Party said in a communiqué in Arabic, a copy of which reached AFP in Beirut.

Uday, 33, was attacked on Thursday evening while he was driving his car in the wealthy Al-Mansur district of central Baghdad.

He was taken to hospital in the Iraqi capital, where his condition was described as not giving any cause for concern.

"Our Mujahideen surrounded

Uday's convoy in the Al-Mansur Souk in Baghdad and opened fire with machine guns, wounding Uday, who was hospitalized and escaped death," the communiqué dated December 12 added.

The Al-Dawa Party, which was founded in 1958, is the oldest Shia Muslim Party in the Iraqi opposition. It is part of the Iraqi National Joint Action Committee, an alliance of opposition groups that includes the Kurdish Iraqi Front, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution, the Movement of the Iraqi Mujahideen and the Islamic Movement in Iraq.

The Shia opposition is particularly active in Southern Iraq, and the Al-Dawa statement paid tribute to its "martyrs" who died in a fierce uprising against Saddam in the region in the aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The statement said Uday was

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S. Lebanon Quiet After Mystery Katyusha Attack

BEIRUT, LEBANON (Dispatches) - Israel said Katyusha rockets fired from inside Lebanon for the first time in eight months hit northern Israel, but the origin of the Friday night attack remained a mystery and South Lebanon was quiet yesterday.

The attack was the first breach of an April 26 cease-fire understanding in South Lebanon that banned attacks on civilian areas by Israeli forces and Muslim activists trying to oust them from Lebanon.

The Hizbullah (Party of God), which leads the Islamic resistance against Israel, denied firing the Katyushas and three Palestinian groups contacted by Reuters also denied involvement.

The attack caused concern in Beirut because it took place three days before a "Friends of Lebanon"

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Kofi Annan of Ghana Is the Next U.N. Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Kofi Annan of Ghana, a sophisticated U.N. career diplomat, was chosen by the Security Council to lead the organization into the new century, succeeding Egypt's Boutros-Ghali whose hopes for a second term were derailed by Washington.

The soft-spoken 58-year-old Annan, undersecretary-general for peace-keeping operations, won the support of all 15 Security Council members on Friday after France dropped a veto threat. The choice now goes to the 185-nation General Assembly, which will appoint him on Tuesday.

Annan will become the seventh secretary-general in U.N. history

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Belgrade Students Stage Biggest Demo in Weeks

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Belgrade students staged their biggest demonstration in weeks yesterday, with reporters estimating some 40,000 protesters marching through the streets.

These demonstrations are the biggest ever, the square in front of the Philosophy College is completely packed and adjoining streets too, independent Belgrade Radio B92 reported.

Security forces were keeping a low profile in line with their policy of allowing the protests against President Slobodan Milosevic and election fraud by his authorities last November.

Serbia's opposition and students have mounted more than three weeks of peaceful street protests since the Zajedno opposition coalition claimed it was cheated of victory in biggest Serbian cities, including Belgrade, during the local elections by Milosevic's ruling Socialists.

The students march daily at around 11:00 GMT and then join the bigger opposition rally in the

morning, they chanted: "From our victory, the sun of victory is rising," and "It's time for justice, time for truth..."

They carried several Serb flags and a poster "We love you Belgrade - and that's why we won't give you up". One student said he was compelled to march because of "Milosevic's and his wife's insatiable".

"I'm tired, but I am also excited. I am against violations of human rights," said a 23-year-old student of philosophy after the 20 hour march.

"Faith in victory and truth made me take this trip," another said.

The student started feeling tired shortly before Belgrade. "But now that these people have welcomed us, I don't feel tired anymore - I could go on walking," she said.

One of the students leaders, Aleksandar Djukic said: "This is great. That's the best present we could have got."

CNN Belgrade, Yugoslavia



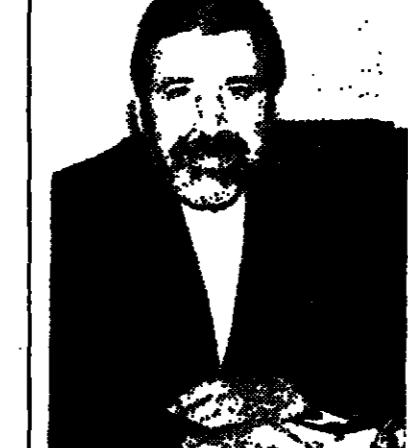
VAEZI COMMENTS ON GERMAN JUDICIARY

Tripartite Company Under Way for Caspian Sea Exploitation

Turkmenistan which will explore natural resources in the Caspian Sea.

Vaezi said, "Officials of the three countries will determine the total assets of the company which will be owned by all three."

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IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - A significant tripartite meeting focusing on politico-economic issues, at deputy ministers level, will be held in Moscow tomorrow, said a senior official in the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi in an interview with IRAN NEWS said the meeting will be attended by senior officials of Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan.

Vaezi, in charge of Foreign Ministry's Euro-American Affairs, will lead the Iranian delegation.

"Several econo-political topics are on the agenda for discussion by officials of the three countries," Vaezi said, adding that they will give final shape to a tripartite company of Iran, Russia and

Renoir's Impressions of an Age

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Karachi Strike

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Chicago Bulls on a Road Trip

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FELICITATIONS
Sunday, the 4th of Sha'ban (December 15), marks the birth anniversary of Hazrat Abbas (A.S.), the valiant brother of Imam Hussein (A.S.). IRAN NEWS management and staff wish to congratulate the Muslim ummah on this auspicious occasion.

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EDITORIAL

Annan's Selection Is Welcome, the World Will Watch Him Closely

Kofi Annan of Ghana, a U.N. career diplomat, was chosen by the Security Council to head the organization into the new century. He will succeed Egypt's Boutros Ghali whose hopes for a second term were dashed because of U.S. opposition.

The 58-year-old Annan, undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations, won the support of all 15 Security Council members on Friday after France dropped a veto threat.

The choice now goes to the 185-nation General Assembly which will appoint him on Tuesday.

According to an unwritten tradition, a U.N. chief usually remains in his post for two five-year terms, but Boutros Ghali was elbowed out by the United States.

In principle, Annan's selection as the seventh secretary-general of the world body is welcome and we all hope that the Ghanaian diplomat will remain fair and impartial during his term of office with all its vital responsibilities at the threshold of the 21st century.

It will not be out of place to examine in detail the recent developments regarding the fate of Boutros Ghali.

The negative and positive points of the Egyptian diplomat's performance as the leader of the world body during the last five years is not the subject of our discussion. The simple and bare fact is that 14 of the 15 members of the Security Council supported Boutros Ghali's re-election on Nov. 20.

The United States cast the only vote against Boutros Ghali and Friday's 15 votes in favor of Annan means that the world body is accepting whatever the U.S. dictates.

We repeat our welcome for Annan's appointment, but we do have our reservations about the way Boutros Ghali was dropped and efforts were made to impose American supremacy in the world body.

The Friday voting makes it clear that Annan was the U.S. choice and the other 14 Security-Council members' votes in favor of Boutros Ghali had no value and bore no significance.

At this stage we do not want to make a premature judgment on what happened behind the scenes after Nov. 19 when the American U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright used her veto in the Security Council.

What we know at this stage is that Boutros Ghali stepped aside and France, which had been insisting on a second term for the Egyptian diplomat, caved in apparently due to the pressure of the United States.

We have to wait and see why the French Ambassador Alain Dejeanmet withdrew his vote, the only one against Annan's candidacy, in an informal 'straw poll' in the Security Council?

In the meantime, these incoherent and irrational developments related to the appointment of the secretary-general once more remind us that a structural reorganization for the United Nations is a must with the particular reference to the veto rights.

President Praises IRGC Achievements

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hashemi yesterday praised the unique and significant services of IRGC during the Islamic Revolution, saying their contributions were an example of responsibility, contentment, and vigilance.

President Hashemi who was addressing commanders and personnel of Ansar al-Mahdi Security Guard, referred to the dangers threatening Islamic Iran, and said: "With merging of sincere revolutionary and devoted forces under the umbrella of Security Guard the crucial points of this sacred system have been safeguarded from foreign forces".

Referring to the solid foundation of the Revolution and the stable economic and cultural infrastructure of the country, the President said that all the significant services rendered during the hard times of construction would not have been possible but for the security and tranquillity achieved by the Armed Forces.

Elsewhere, the President remarked that the security forces,



TEHRAN - President Rafsanjani addressing a group of visitors from the IRGC, praised their valuable services.

despite their important position and their close relations with decision-making and power centers, have been leading a simple life which could be a good model for

other organizations.

Commander of Ansar al-Mahdi Security Force, Movahedi, while expressing his thanks for the President's support for IRGC

(Photo by Abd)

briefed the audience on the achievements and plans of IRGC and its readiness to protect the achievements of the Islamic Revolution.

Iran, Germany Determined to Protect Relations



MOUSAVIAN

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Bonn, Hussein Mousavian, said yesterday that high-ranking Iranian and German officials are determined to protect Tehran-Bonn relations at optimum level, adding that they will not allow relations to be strained.

Mousavian said relations between the two countries have not been shaped overnight and therefore they cannot be destroyed overnight.

He said the initiative taken by the Iranian President and German chancellor to control the Mykonos crisis was proof that neither government was willing to let historical relations be affected by the immature claims of a prosecutor.

Mousavian said that the German Judiciary has been provided with documents on the real identity of the so-called 'Witness-C' which are under examination by it.

He said that the examination of the documents would prove that the individual who made such charges against Iran is a fugitive fraudulent person and a thief. He also maintained that the new information would change the court's verdict.

Mousavian said that Iran wants Germany to prevent the court proceedings from being influenced by domestic and foreign sources.

Regarding the impacts of the world arrogance's anti-Iran propaganda campaign on German public opinion, he said despite 17 years of propaganda campaign against Iran, the German people have a moderate approach toward Iran.

He said the Iranian people too are interested in having good relations with Germany. But, he added, the insult of the prosecutor of the Berlin court was unacceptable.

He made it clear that the bitter reaction of the Iranian people was directed against a person and specific department and not against the German government or people.

He elaborated on the background of Tehran-Bonn relations, saying that after the Islamic Revolution's victory, the U.S. put pressure on the European Union to cut

off relations with Iran, but Germany was one major country that rejected the call.

"At the end of Iraqi-imposed war, when other countries were hesitant in declaring Iraq as the aggressor, Germany took the lead favoring Iran and offered the highest credit line for Iranian reconstruction programs," he said.

When there was a delay in Iran's repayment to its foreign creditors, Germany also took an initiative and the others followed suit in encouraging famous insurance bodies to cooperate with Iran to cope with the issue, the Iranian diplomat said.

He said during the meetings of the G7 industrialized nations, the U.S. always made every effort to discourage other countries from cooperating with Iran, but Germany is the sole country opposing U.S. policies.

He said all the factors mentioned above have served to consolidate relations between Tehran and Bonn and there is no reason for Tehran not to give positive response to German goodwill.

Mousavian said that the Iranian diplomacy has focused on development of friendly relations with Europe and Germany is the strongest in that continent.

However, he said, the volume of trade reduced from eight billion marks in 1992 to two billion Deutschmarks in 1996, indicating that Germany was a vanguard in providing Iran with the highest credit lines during those years. Iran did not make most of its purchases from Germany, IRNA reported.

Janbazan Week to Commence Today

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Janbazan (disabled war veterans) Week will commence today on the occasion of birth of Hazrat-e Abofazl al-Abbas (A.S.), said Hossein Zarifmanesh, deputy managing director of Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation (MJF), in a press conference here yesterday.

Large Scale Maneuver to Be Conducted by Armed Forces

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A large scale maneuver codenamed *Tariq al-Qods* (path of victory) will be conducted by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 1997).

Deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Brigadier Rahim Safavi, added that more than 120,000 combatants from the ground, air and naval forces as well as the volunteer units (Basij forces) will participate in the war game.

Iran News & Journalism College to Start Next Year

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance (*Ershad*) Mostafa Mirsalim said here Friday that a government authorization for establishing a journalism and correspondence college had been issued and that the Iranian college of journalism would open in Tehran in September 1997.

According to an IRNA report,

the school will be a faculty of the University of Science and Technology, that already has the departments of tourism and film-making.

A portion of the students of tourism and film-making of the university are already employed in their respective fields at various organizations.

The *Ershad* minister said that

the country needed experts in every field and added that no expert in any field would be unemployed in Iran.

About 18,500 student applicants participated in the college entrance examinations of the university with 3,160 passing the examinations.

Entrance examinations for the university will be held annually.

Sheikholeslam Greets Kenya's Juma on Independence Day

The whole range of Iranian dishes were served by Kenyan Ambassador Salim I. Juma on Thursday to mark his country's Independence Day.



The chief guest was Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Sheikholeslam who was surrounded by Arab diplomats who were making the best use of his presence. Sheikholeslam is in charge of Foreign Ministry's Arab and African section.



The deputy foreign minister delivered Iran's congratulations to Ambassador Juma on the Independence Day of his country. Kenya became fully independent within the Commonwealth on Dec. 12, 1963. Jomo Kenyatta became first prime minister of independent Kenya.

Ambassador Juma is one of the most popular foreign diplomats in Tehran because of his humble nature. He arrived here in 1993 and successfully brought Iran and Kenya closer together. Ambassador Juma's efforts and encouragements are the reason for the active presence of Iranian industrialists and traders in Kenya.

Juma said, "We now have 150 Iranian businessmen in Kenya."

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TEHRAN - A top Iranian Quran reciter who received the best award at the International Quran Recitation and Memorization Competition, pays homage to the Leader who attended the concluding ceremonies here yesterday.

(Photo by Hatami)

Iran Urges International Community to Render Aid to Afghanistan

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's deputy permanent representative to the U.N., Majid Takht-Ravanchi, in United Nations, New York on Friday called on the international community to render its assistance to the people of Afghanistan with the hope that those who have survived the scourge of war can survive hunger and disease.

Commenting on the critical situation in Afghanistan, he noted that the continuation of war in Afghanistan has not only caused destruction of the country's infrastructure but has also created a

source of instability and concern in the region and a threat to international peace and security.

Addressing the 51st session of the U.N. General Assembly on the situation in Afghanistan, he stressed that the destructive side-effects of the civil strife in Afghanistan have exceeded its national borders and constitute se-

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Bangladeshis in Iran Celebrate Victory Day

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - People of Bangladesh will observe their country's Silver Jubilee Victory Day tomorrow with colorful ceremonies throughout the country.

In Tehran, similar ceremonies will be organized by the Bangladesh Embassy with flag hoisting at 10 in the morning followed by recitations from the Holy Quran and the National Anthem, according to a press release faxed to IRAN NEWS yesterday.

The embassy invited all Bangladeshi nationals residing in Iran to attend the ceremonies.

Debates and discussions on the significance of the day will be conducted and prizes will be given to the participants.

Former East Pakistan, Bangladesh came into existence in 1971. Its founder was Sheikh Mujibur

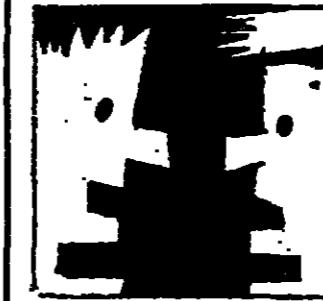
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12:00
17:15
05:29
07:07

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)
Evening (Maghreb)
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)
Tomorrow's Sunrise

TÉTE-A-TÉTE



Retaliation Against Iran?!

"Sir, listen to this. 19 Americans were killed in a terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia some time ago, and now some Americans are talking about 'strong action', 'contingency plans' and retaliation against Iran", and a Pentagon spokesman says 'It is premature to talk about future analysis until that analysis is complete.'

"Well, for an American, military spokesman, he seems to be a fair-minded man. But tell me what is it they're going to analyze?"

"There lies the point, sir, at which every American school child will laugh: The Saudi investigators (!) have presented the FBI with 'the videotaped confessions' of some 40 luckless, Saudi Shias, extracted under most convenient, Inquisitional circumstances, and reports say that those wretched suspects have presumably confessed to having 'received military-grade explosives, bomb components, etc. from members of Hizbullah of Lebanon', a radical, Islamic organization which, as the West has always alleged, is sometimes 'funded and supported by the Iranian government.'

"That's fantastic! In the same a la Saudi method, I am ready to extract confessions from some 40 American Presbyterians that shall prove, beyond a shadow of doubt, that the Nixon administration had a hand in the Gunpowder Plot in 1605!"

"But that is not the Saudi, clever, medieval thinking: they take Americans for naive mercenaries who would fight another war for them, only this time, without any wages!"

"No problem! We, as a civilized nation, shall only take our case to the International Court at The Hague!"

ABU SINA

Brunei Eager to Use Iran's Experience

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here yesterday received the Bruneian Minister of Education Hisham Dato' Haji Abdul Aziz.

Presenting the best regards of the Bruneian Sultan and nation to President Rafsanjani and Iranian people, Abdul Aziz called his meeting with Iranian educational and cultural officials as very fruitful.

"In my visits to some cultural and educational centers in Iran, I became more familiar with Iran's scientific and educational facilities," the Bruneian minister said. He also voiced his country's interest in using Iran's experience in education and science.

Referring to the religious and cultural commonalities between Iran and Brunei, President Raf-



TEHRAN - President Rafsanjani (R) with Abdol Aziz

PHOTO BY ABDI
sanjani stated that Iran was ready for expansion of bilateral cooperation.

The President also expressed Iran's readiness for transfer of its valuable educational and scientific experience to the Muslim nation of Brunei and expansion of political and economic cooperation.

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ECONOMIC NOTE

The Necessity of a Unified Third Party Liability Motor Insurance System Among ECO Member Countries



ALI AKBAR ABDOLRASHIDI

Part Four

It is certain that these vehicles are facing the same problem as vehicles that cross Iranian borders. Generalizing the issue, we have to conclude that all ECO motorists are sharing the same concern while traveling abroad, which is 'nonexistence' of third party liability motor insurance coverage acceptable and applicable in other countries.

We do not know the number of accidents happened in Iran, Turkmenistan or in other ECO states because of the movement of these vehicles. Unfortunately neither insurance companies nor the ECO center and its branches in the region could produce figures about accidents caused by ECO motorists on their visits to ECO countries.

Nobody can claim that accidents caused by ECO motorists on their visits to ECO countries.

Nobody can claim that accidents have 'not' happened or would not happen as a result of above mentioned movements. Also nobody can presume that it is reasonable to ignore the lack of cooperation and collaboration of insurance authorities in the ECO region in the field of third party liability motor insurance.

Car accidents are inevitable at any rate. Insurance coverage is to compensate damages incurred from such accidents no matter how rare and limited. But if motorists can not buy necessary liability motor insurance policy, not because of their unwillingness, but because of nonexistence of such product, how is identification possible and who is to be blamed.

Taking care of victims of road accidents caused by foreign motorists is the core of issue which we are talking about. But there is another issue which is to be considered. It is the issue of foreign motorists and citizens who are themselves victims of accidents in a visited country. These citizens need help in case of such accidents but unfortunately no help is possible to be extended to them.

Even if we intend and try to help them, in both cases, we have same difficulties as the European countries encountered in 1949. These difficulties are:

- * Ascertaining the identity of the responsible motorist and its insurer, if any;
- * Obtaining formal or even reasonable report on death, injuries or damages;
- * Recognizing any focal national insurance authority in each ECO member state to cooperate with, if any.

As far as our records show, third party liability motor insurance may exist in some of the Central Asian countries, but not on a compulsory basis which exist in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. According to recent information we have received from Turkmenistan, compulsory third party liability motor insurance does not exist in that country, although a voluntary coverage might be purchased.

This voluntary system in Turkmenistan and in any other Central Asian ECO country can be regarded as a base of consideration and companies which are selling such insurance policies can become the partner for future negotiations between ECO members for a possible bilateral or multilateral unified third party liability motor insurance system.

At the moment, drivers who are driving between Iran and Turkey are covered by a uniform agreement in the framework of the Green Card system. Nonetheless, we still need to expand the geographical scope of this coverage in the region to provide a safe guarantee for the settlement of claims arising from accidents caused by motorists in other member countries.

As figures show many vehicles registered in non-ECO origins are crossing ECO borders every year. The same difficulty exists when non-ECO motorists cause an accident on ECO roads or the other way around.

We need a collective effort to bridge Green Card system with a possible ECO unified system to facilitate the settlement of claims arising from accidents in which ECO nations are concerned.

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100,000 New Paykans to Go On Stream

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Paykan with a new design will be manufactured in the next two years in Iran with a capacity of 100,000 per annum, according to Managing Director of Supply of Automotive Parts Company (SAPCO) Reza Veysseh in charge of design, engineering and supply of automotive parts.

Veysseh said, "85 percent of this new Paykan will be produced indigenously and the engineering of the automobile is done completely by our own engineers, and only as little as \$2000 will be spent in foreign exchange for each set".

Elsewhere SAPCO's managing director stated that in view of the growth witnessed in the domestic manufacturing sector, the objectives to manufacture this new car was to create a quantitative and qualitative rise in the national production.

He said currently 2,523 parts of the vehicle are produced inside Iran.

"Since 1992 the company has signed various contracts with 50



domestic manufacturers to fabricate more than 30,000 parts costing 3,000 billion rials of which 35 percent has been manufactured and 80 billion rials worth of parts is received monthly by SAPCO," the official added.

As regards the currently manufactured Paykans, Veysseh said 95

percent of its parts are produced domestically by spending about \$1200 for each vehicle adding that 45 percent of Peugeot 405 is produced in Iran which will rise to 75 percent by the end of the year, meaning that \$100,000 will be saved for each one percent of self-sufficiency.

214 Development Projects Launched in Deprived Villages

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - By providing enough budget for elimination of deprived regions, 241 development projects were launched in deprived rural areas in 18 provinces, said Jalil Besharati, head of the Department of Deprived Regions Affairs (DRA).

He said the President has allocated 16.14b rials budget for the Iranian month of Azar (November/December) to supply electricity to 41 villages, rebuild villages, complete telecommunications offices, health centers and schools in Abadeh, Esteban, Bouvanat, Jahrom, Darab, Delhipdan, Shiraz, Firouzabad Fasa and Kazeroun and construct a camel health and treatment center at Hammaleh, village, Lar, Fars Province.

Besides 17 potable water projects and several roads are being prepared to launch in Kerman, Shah, Eslamabad-e Ghad, Sahneh, Sangar, Javanrud and Hensin, Besharati added.

"Preliminary steps for construction of 17 roads, water supply projects, road construction, completion of bridges and primary and secondary schools in Talesh, Fowman, Lahijan, Roudbar, Anzali, Rasht, Astara and Rudbar and Astaneh Ashrafieh has commenced," said the head of DRA adding that the Sharan Meidab road in Ilam, 3 electricity lines to Aqchay, Ardabil and Hassankhan Darsi village in Bileh Savar is earmarked to start shortly and the Sahab Divan village in Meshkinshahr, Ardabil Province, will receive potable water in the near future.

He said 4 projects in the Cen-
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Habibi Says Laying Bafq-Mashhad Track Starts Ahead of Schedule

YAZD (IRNA) - First Vice President Hassan Habibi said here on Friday that operations for laying Bafq-Mashhad track had started ahead of the schedule.

Habibi expressed hope that more population would be absorbed to the eastern part of the country following development of the area.

He said that the notion of development in the eastern Iran was completely ignored by the former regime of Shah and what one observes in the region today belongs to the post-Revolution era.

He predicted that 1,500 kms out of the total railway network would be operational in near future.

Upon completion, the capital of Khorassan Province will also be linked with Persian Gulf port city of Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan Province.

The railway will also offer the former Soviet republics north of Iran land transport facilities to the Persian Gulf and from there to the rest of the world.

Kish Airport Ready for Landing of Wide-Bodied Aircraft

KISH (IRNA) - The International Airport of Kish Island is now open to wide-bodied airplanes, said the airport director here Friday.

Nosratollah Yousefi further said that according to the standards set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the airport can from now on receive Boeing 747 and Airbus airplanes.

The modernization and rehabilitation of the airport has cost 6,000 million rials, he added.

Up to 12 flights take place daily at the airport at present which with the introduction of the facilities will be increased to 40 flights a day.

Over 1,500 passengers fly to Kish every day.

Bahar Shabab Company's Manufacturing Complex (Owned by Semnan Province's Warriors)

Central offices:

Semnan Tel. No. 0231-29908
Tehran Office Tel: No. 643 6172-3
Karaj Office Tel. No. 0261-226427

Fax: 0231-24466
Fax: 6436173

(Commercial Manager)

Industrial

Manufacturing and distribution full- and semi-automatic bread baking machinery (Lavash, Barbary, Sangak and Taftoon breads) Confectionery ovens, blenders, dough makers, automatic spreading machines, etc..

Manufactured by Shater Pokht Co.

Deliveries across Iran and abroad
Bank credit available

Industrial

Refractory Products
(In all fields and types needed domestically)
Another step in import reduction, by producing the domestic manufacturers' inquiries, enabling them to supply the demand.

Refractory cardboards (soft and hard types), mica sheets, refractory acoustic sheets (900 degrees centigrade), used to fireproof cinema, theaters and all other mass halls, dunite sheets, used by automobile and washer manufacturers, leads for mechanical and regular pencils.

All Manufactured by Iran Refractory Cardboard Company

Agriculture

Cactus Plants

Training, keeping, growing and reproducing cacti and fleshy plants, manufacturing and distributing greenhouse heaters, also used for mass halls. Buying and selling fleshy plants (succulents) and cacti to and from other interested plant growers at reasonable prices.

Protein Products

Supplying All Walks of Life with Their Protein Needs in Bahar Shabab Pavilions Pavilion No. 1 at Shahid Lavasani Produce Market, Niavar, Tehran
(Commercial Manager)

IRAN

WORLD NEWS

214 Development Projects Launched in Deprived Villages

White House "sherpa" who prepares for annual summits of rich nations.

But analysts said it may not be so easy for the team to make up for its lack of experience in dealing with Congress.

versity and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 1937, the same year he began writing a column for the *Boston Record* newspaper.

He later worked as a feature writer and editor for the Associated Press and as a staff writer for *American and Collier* magazines.

Packard criticized the decline of the family and the loss of community ties in his 1972 book, "A Nation of Strangers," and targeted the consumer society in such books as "The Waste Makers" (1960) and "The Ultra Rich: How Much Is Too Much?" (1989).

Packard, who lived on the summer resort island of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts, is survived by his wife, Manie Virginia Packard, and their three children, Vance, Randall and Cynthia.

tral Province, 5 projects in Kerman, 4 projects in Sistan and Baluchestan, 1 project in Qom and Hamedan, 3 projects in Lorestan and 5 in Kurdistan will be launched to complete water supply networks, roads, medicare centers and a diversion dam by the government.

"35 development projects in Khorassan Province, 8 projects in Kohkiluyeh and Buyerahmad, 7 in Chahmeh and Bakhtiari, 45 in Hormozgan, 34 in Khuzestan and 23 projects in Yazd have been devised to be implemented in the immediate future," said Besharati adding that necessary action is being taken by the DRA branches to eliminate deprivation in remote rural areas.

ing Bafq with Chahormalou mine and an additional 220-kilometer project for linking Chahormalou with Tabass in Khorassan Province of Iran had just started.

arrogant powers for their indifference toward the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and Iraq.

"Those claiming to be advocates of human rights have shown that they do not care about the blood of people shed unjustly in Palestine or the massacre of thousands of people in Halabja by the Baathist regime of Iraq while at the same time accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of human rights abuses.

"They (so-called advocates of human rights) by issuing resolutions and taking advantage of the United Nations and its Security Council go ahead with their political and cultural antagonism against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He termed the struggle of the Western culture with the Muslim nation of Iran "a long-term and deep struggle."

"Resisting the aggressions and plots of the enemies of Islam requires a strength originating from

commitment and a sense of responsibility based on Divine duties," he said.

The meeting took place on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Hussein (A.S.), the third Imam of the infallible Household of Prophet Mohammad (S.), which is celebrated in Iran as the IRGC Day.

The Supreme Leader described Imam Hussein (A.S.) as one of the closest and most prominent angels of the Almighty God.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on the IRGC personnel to seriously follow the example set by the Lord of Martyrs (Imam Hussein) and said the history of the Islamic Revolution is full of the valuable acts performed by the IRGC personnel thanks to their following the pattern of Imam Hussein.

Prior to Ayatollah Khamenei's speech, the Leader's Representative to the IRGC Hojjatoleslam Movahedi-Kermani and IRGC Commander Major General Mohsen Rezaei in their speeches felicitated the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on the auspicious occasion, and reaffirmed the IRGC's allegiance to the Supreme Leader.

targeted "to take revenge for the martyrs of Islam and to remind international public opinion of the suffering of our people — victims of Saddam's gang."

Saddam's Sunni Muslim government has launched regular campaigns of repression against the Shia population of the south since the failed uprising which have been condemned by the United Nations and humanitarian groups.

The official Iraqi media gave no further information yesterday about the attack, nor Uday's condition.

However, the *Babel* newspaper, which is run by Uday, said the shooting had "stolen the joy" of Iraqi people after Baghdad began pumping oil this week for the first time in six years under a U.N. oil-for-food accord aimed at helping the country's sanction-hit people.

The deal is the first easing of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Iraq will not yield to conspiracies and will not stop its path to progress," the newspaper said in an editorial.

"Iraq resisted a coalition of 30 countries (during the 1991 Persian Gulf War) and endured an embargo of more than six years. This cowardly act will only strengthen their resistance," it said.

Uday is regarded as a flamboyant and influential figure in Iraq's complex clan politics, with many potential rivals — political, business and personal.

Although he holds no official posts, he controls a large media network and business empire that includes Iraq's Youth Radio and the *Babel* newspaper.

In addition, he was appointed head of a force known as "Saddam's Fighters," a 25,000-strong paramilitary group created in 1994 to protect the president.

Wafiq Samarra'i, a former Iraqi intelligence chief who defected to Syria in 1994, said from Damascus that around 500 people had been arrested after the shooting.

He also claimed that Uday had been the target of a similar attack in June carried out by a group of Iraqi opposition members, who were all arrested and executed.

The June attack has not been

confirmed by officials in Baghdad.

The Bruneian education minister also met his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Ali Najafi yesterday for the second time.

The two ministers discussed ways of promoting scientific and academic cooperation between Iran and Brunei. The first round of the talks was held on Wednesday.

rious sources of insecurity and instability in the region and beyond.

"We believe, as we have indicated in the past, that the crisis in Afghanistan has no military solution," Takht-Ravanchi said adding, "it is totally unacceptable that in Afghanistan some policies and practices that are clearly un-Islamic and even anti-Islamic, in form or in nature, are conducted and attributed to Islam."

Rahman who is called by Bangladeshis Bangabandhu or friend of Bengal.

The first Bangladesh President and Leader of the Awami League, Rahman, was toppled by a bloody coup in 1975 in which he along with 15 members of his family were killed.

Rahman's only daughter, Sheikh Hasina Wajed came into power as a leader of the Awami League last June after 21 years. She was in Germany at the time of coup in Dhaka.

For two decades she dedicated herself to vindicating her father's name and avenging his murderers.

and the first from sub-Saharan Africa. He will also be the first secretary-general to rise through U.N. ranks.

He takes up the \$205,809 a year post January 1, 1997. The perks of one of the world's toughest jobs include a town house overlooking the East River on New York's posh upper east side.

He will succeed Boutros-Ghali, the 74-year-old Egyptian former deputy prime minister who wanted a second five-year term but was elbowed out by the United States.

The council, after approving Amman, adopted another resolution paying tribute to Boutros-Ghali, at the end of a long public career punctuated by his intellectual brilliance and stubborn independence.

Boutros-Ghali stepped aside after being vetoed by American U.N. envoy Madeleine Albright in a November 19 Security Council vote in which he was the only candidate. The Ghanaian diplomat then entered the contest, along with three other Africans from French-speaking countries. His closest rival was Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast foreign minister, whose support waned quickly.

Washington said the United Nations needs new leadership to carry out reforms and since June has spent much diplomatic capital and goodwill to block his re-election.

In a statement and in interviews after receiving the council's nod, Amman said: "My highest priority will be to work with all member states to redefine the objectives of the organization in the post-Cold

war world."

Aware of the shortcomings for which the middle-aged United Nations has been blamed, he said it was "time to agree on what the United Nations can and must do, and what it cannot do."

Amman has served for more than 30 years in posts as far afield as Addis Ababa, Geneva, Cairo and New York. After Iraq's invasion of Kuwait he was sent to the region to help extricate more than 900 international staff.

He has headed U.N. peacekeeping since early 1993, during a time when it grew to more than 70,000 troops serving from Somalia and Bosnia to Rwanda and Haiti.

Despite criticism in many quarters, including the United States, over the handling of some operations, most of it was directed at Boutros-Ghali rather than Amman.

With the United Nations sometimes accused of biting off more than it can chew, Amman said charting its future would require consensus and cooperation among all member states.

One of his biggest headaches will be trying to solve the organization's perpetual bankruptcy, caused in the main by the \$1.3 billion U.S. debt.

"In January, we must embark upon a time for healing — to restore confidence between governments and this institution in order to help replenish its financial strength and its political and moral authority," Amman said.

Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan, together with Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, are the littoral states of the world's largest lake.

"Well, the tripartite company will serve as a model for multi-national cooperation for other regional countries," Vaezi said to IRAN NEWS.

Commenting on the Tajikistan crisis, Vaezi said, "Iran welcomes the peace process and expects that the 1994 Tehran accord will be honored by all concerned parties."

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and leader of the opposition Islamist forces Seyed Abdullah Nouri held a meeting Dec. 10-11 in Afghanistan.

"We condemn violence and hope that the peace process will continue on the basis of what both sides have agreed to," Vaezi said.

Commenting on Iran's relations with Germany, he said, "It all depends on the stance of the German Judiciary."

"Earlier, we used to believe that like Iran, the German Judiciary is an independent entity," Vaezi said, adding, that the recent move by a German prosecutor makes the fact crystal clear that German judiciary is under pressure and influenced by certain biased forces, and is not independent.

Relations between Iran and Germany became strained over a Berlin court's charge last month that Iranian officials ordered the killing of three Kurds and their translator at the Mykonos Restaurant in Berlin in 1992.

"Now it all depends on the Judiciary ... relations between Bonn and Teheran will remain normal if it adopts impartial and unbiased legal procedures in the Berlin murder case," Vaezi told IRAN NEWS.

non-donors' conference in Washington on Monday at which Lebanon hopes to raise up to \$5 billion to help finance its post-civil

war reconstruction.

PFLP Calls for Release of Militants

DAMASCUS, SYRIA - The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a PLO faction, yesterday called on Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat to free activists arrested after two Jewish settlers were killed in a drive-by shooting this week.

"The PFLP asks the Palestinian Authority, which has arrested more than 27 of its militants, to free them immediately," spokesman Maher Taher said.

Palestinian police arrested the PFLP militants after Wednesday's attack near the self-ruled West Bank town of Ramallah.

The PFLP, a Syria-based group opposed to the Palestinian peace accords with Israel, claimed responsibility for the attack, which coincided with the 29th anniversary of the PFLP's founding.

Two Hizbullah Killed in Attack Against Israeli Convoy

MARJAYOUN, LEBANON - Two Hizbullah activists were killed in an attack yesterday against an Israeli army command convoy in the border zone occupied by Israel in South Lebanon.

He was wearing a long shirt, jacket and a round cap, traditional Kenyan dress. Ambassador Juma talking to IRAN NEWS said, "President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's visit to Kenya was significant."

The Iranian President visited Kenya last September. Ambassador Juma believes that the visit has opened a number of doors for bilateral cooperation.

Foreign diplomats, headed by their dean, Syrian Ambassador Ahmad al-Hassan, attended the lunch which included roast lambs. All foods including a variety of sweets were prepared by GALA Inc., an Iranian company of home delivery of food particularly for parties.

Pakistani Ambassador Khalid Mahmood was talking to Venezuelan Eladio Sanz-Sanz. The Venezuelan diplomat told us that Iran and his country are to increase the level of their diplomatic relations.

The only female member of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps, Sierra Leone Ambassador Haja Alarie Col was given special treatment when a chair was provided for her to sit on. She was talking to other diplomats including South African Ambassador Musa Moola and Kenyan Embassy's Martin W. Nguru.

We saw Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Ohara who stayed at the party for a while and left after greeting Ambassador Juma.

Indonesian Ambassador Sumitro was there and was talking about a successful meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) held last week in Jakarta.

Malaysian Ambassador Mohammed Khalis bin Ali Hassan while talking to us was recalling the visit of his country's Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last month. He said the meeting was successful and more visits between the two countries were underway.

Ormani Ambassador Musallam bin Bakheet bin Zedian al-Barami was looking smart in his non-traditional dress. He was talking to Qatari Ambassador Ali Abdul Aziz al-Kwari and Palestinian Ambassador Salah Zawawi.

We met with Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Salah N. al-Samarmad who was looking relaxed because of the U.N. oil-for-food deal which started on Tuesday.

"We had some initial problems but the oil flow is now continuing without a hitch," Al-Samarmad said.

Croatian Counselor Zeljko Kupresak told us that Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Ali Akbar Torkan is due to visit his country for a joint commission meeting to be held soon.

Afghan Embassy Counselor Seyed Abdul Azim Mobaien was also there at the party.

Greek Embassy's Ioannis Vralias, Ormani Embassy's Cdr. Abdullah Abbas Mohammed al-Blushi and Saif bin Nasser al-Badie were among those attending the ceremonies at the residence of Ambassador Juma.

Tanzanian Military Drives Rwandan Refugees Home

BENACO, TANZANIA (Dispatches) - Tanzania's military began a major operation yesterday to return hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees home. The refugees trudged out of the forests and back toward their camps - and appeared to be heading home after 2 1/2 years in exile.

More than 10,000 soldiers fanned out yesterday to round up 535,000 Rwandan refugees, most of whom fled deeper into Tanzania from camps on the Rwandan border on Thursday.

The refugees reversed their direction on Friday, heading back toward the camps, and the Tanzanian troops set up roadblocks to make sure they kept going - not only back to the camps, but on to the Rwandan border.

The soldiers said they were not using force.

"We just want to help these poor people go home," said Gen. Msuya, the military commander of the operation who would not give his first name. "We're not shooting anyone."

The army stopped reporters at a checkpoint near Benaco, 25 kilometers (15 miles) southeast of the Rusumo border crossing. The last refugees were passing the checkpoint yesterday.

Supreme Court Defers Hearing on Bhutto's Dismissal Appeal



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Pakistan's top court yesterday deferred hearing former Premier Benazir Bhutto's legal challenge to her dismissal last month by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court decided first to hear other constitutional writs challenging validity of presidential powers to dissolve the National Assembly.

"We bow before the decision of the court," said Bhutto's main counsel, Aitzaz Ahsan, a former interior minister.

Leghari, who sacked Bhutto and simultaneously disbanded the Assembly on November 5, did so by invoking the Constitution's Article 58-2(B), which has been used three times before by presidents.

Chief Justice Sajjad Ali, who is heading the panel of judges, said the court first wanted to address of the controversy surrounding the provision on presidential powers.

He assured that the court would dispose of Bhutto's petition soon, taking into account the time remaining before planned general elections, which would be unnecessary if the court ruled in Bhutto's favor.

Leghari has scheduled the election for February 3.

The Tanzanian military operation was designed to ensure that they went not only back to their camps, but continued on to Rwanda, and a worker from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies indicated that it was working.

The worker, who refused to give his name, said radio communications from Red Cross stations set up along the roads near the border indicated that refugees were moving in large numbers back toward their homeland. Since journalists were not allowed in the

area, there was no way to confirm his account.

The Tanzanian military ordered all aid groups and U.N. workers to remain in their compounds yesterday. But it exempted the Red Cross and Oxfam, both of which set up way stations on the roads between the camps and the border.

When the refugees fled deeper into Tanzania on Thursday, aid workers said they were being herded by armed Hutu militants, who fear retribution for the 1994 slaughter of 500,000 minority Tutsis in Rwanda if they go home.

Great Lakes' Regional Summit to Begin Tomorrow

NAIROBI, KENYA (AFP) - Heads of state and government of all countries in Africa's Great Lakes region will attend a summit in Nairobi on Monday, the official Kenya news agency reported yesterday.

Also attending will be Organization of African Unity Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania and founding Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who is acting as mediator on Burundi, it said.

The Great Lakes area is the focus of crises in Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi which are affecting all neighboring countries.

In Zaire, rebels led by Zairean Tutsis of Rwandan origin backed by other opponents of President Mobutu Sese Seko's regime have launched an offensive in the east of the country.

Their attacks caused the flight of some million Hutus from refugee camps, of whom about half a million returned en masse to Rwanda last month.

Bangladesh Remembers Intellectuals Killed During Independence

DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AFP) - Bangladeshis yesterday paid tribute to dozens of intellectuals killed 25 years ago during the war which won this South Asian country independence from Pakistan.

Thousands of people, including relatives of the dead and some of those accused of assisting in the killings, wore black badges and placed wreaths at graves across the country or at a 'temporary' memorial set up to them by Bangladeshi's founding Leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"The main objective of such a brutal killing was to eradicate the greatest sons of the soil ... who through their merit and talent provided courage to the nation for its emancipation," Sheikh Hasina said.

Pakistan began a crack down on an independence campaign in what was then east Pakistan on March 25, 1971 in an attempt to suppress it. Later Pakistani forces began systematically killing engineers, doctors, teachers, journalists and other professionals in a bid to wipe out the campaign's leadership.

Ahmed added that Bengalis would not forget the killings carried out by the "Pakistani occupation army and their collaborators."

National newspapers published special reports in memory of the intellectuals saying the killings were aimed at "maiming the emerging nation of its talented people so that Bangladesh remained crippled."



GAZA, GAZA STRIP: An activist of the Hamas Islamic movement shouts pro-Hamas slogans during a big rally held in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip Dec. 13. Around 15,000 supporters of Hamas gathered to celebrate the 9th anniversary of the foundation of Hamas and the killing by Israeli army of two of its leaders during the intifada.

(AFP Photo)

Azerbaijan Signs \$2 Billion Oil and Gas Contract

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Azerbaijan yesterday signed a contract worth two billion dollars to develop two oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea with an international consortium, cutting out its powerful Russian neighbor for the first time, Russia news agencies reported.

The contract involves the Dan-Ulduzu and Ashrafi fields, around 60 kilometers (35 miles) southeast of the capital Baku, which have reserves estimated at 150 million tons of oil and between 30 and 50 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

Shares in the consortium are held by the U.S. companies AMOCO (30 percent) and UNOCAL (25.5 percent), Itochu of Japan (20 percent) and the Sandi company Delta (4.5 percent). The

Azerbaijani national oil company SOCAR also holds 20 percent.

The foreign partners paid an "entrance ticket" totaling around \$75 million, the Russian news agencies said.

There are no Russian companies in the consortium, unlike past contracts drawn up by Azerbaijan, which had always included the Russian oil giant, Lukoil.

However, sources quoted by Interfax news agency, said Lukoil could acquire an interest indirectly because SOCAR planned to link the development of Dan-Ulduzu and Ashrafi with the nearby Karabakh field.

Lukoil is the biggest shareholder in the consortium exploiting the Karabakh field at 32.5 percent.

Azerbaijani President Haidar

Aliyev was present for the signing of the contract in the Azerbaijani capital Baku, which will have to be ratified by Parliament before it enters into force. The contract will be valid for 25 years.

It is the fourth major contract signed by Baku with international consortiums since 1994 to exploit Caspian oil.

The first "contract of the century" worth eight billion dollars was signed in September 1994, followed by one worth three billion dollars in November 1995 and a third worth four billion last June.

The collapse of the former Soviet Union has rendered obsolete the treaties of 1921 and 1940 which divided up the Caspian Sea between Iran and the Soviet Union.

No new judicial statute has been conceived to share up the resources of the sea, which is now bordered by five states, the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan as well as Russia and Iran.

Despite Lopez' Indictment, GM Determined to Press Case

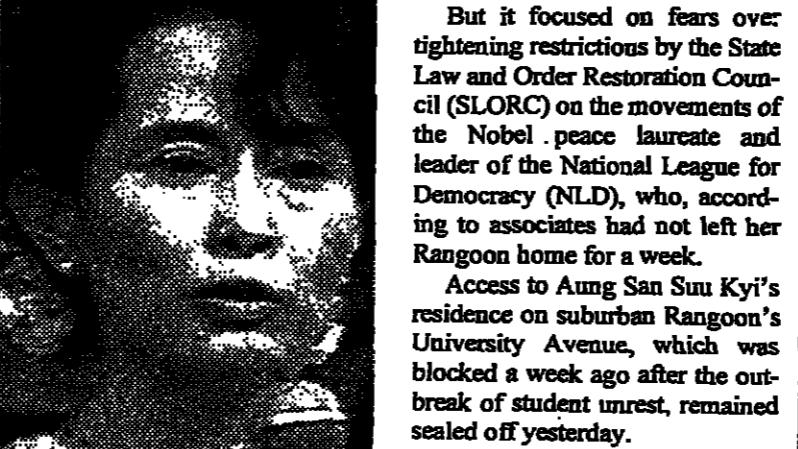
DETROIT, MICHIGAN, U.S.A. (AFP) - General Motors is determined to press its case for admission of wrongdoing and financial reparation from Volkswagen, despite the indictment of former VW purchasing Chief Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua on corporate spying charges.

Lopez, who worked for GM before defecting to VW in March 1993, was charged Friday in Darmstadt, Germany with retaining property stolen from GM and betrayal of its company and commercial secrets.

German prosecutors said that if Lopez is found guilty he could face up to five years in jail.

VW Chairman Ferdinand Piech publicly expressed regret over the affair.

EU Warns Burma on Safety of Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi



DUBLIN, IRELAND (AFP) - The European Union yesterday issued a stark warning to the Burmese government that it would hold it responsible for the personal safety of opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The EU, in a statement issued at its summit here, also expressed "deep concern" over reports of recent police brutality against student demonstrators in Burma, citing rights of free assembly and expression and calling for re-

straint.

But it focused on fears over

tightening restrictions by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) on the movements of the Nobel peace laureate and leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), who, according to associates had not left her Rangoon home for a week.

Access to Aung San Suu Kyi's

residence on suburban Rangoon's University Avenue, which was

blocked a week ago after the

outbreak of student unrest, remained sealed off yesterday.

And reports in Rangoon said

she failed to show up for her

nephew's wedding at a Buddhist

temple yesterday morning, al-

though it was not clear if she had

been prevented from leaving her

compound by authorities.

The EU statement expressed

"deep concern at persistent reports

of further infringements on the

personal safety" of Aung San Suu Kyi "may be imminent."

"The European Union will hold

the SLORC fully responsible for

the physical well-being of Daw

Aung San Suu Kyi," it said.



Strike Call by Religious Groups Disrupts Life in Karachi

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AFP) - A partial strike yesterday disrupted life in Pakistan's commercial capital of Karachi as Muslim groups protested against a member of the Ahmadi sect being made a provincial minister, witnesses said.

Road traffic was thin and major markets were closed after a strike call by an alliance of religious parties including Sunni Tehreek, Jamiat-e-Islami, Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam and Jamiat Ulema Pakistan.

The strike affected attendance at government and private offices and educational institutions as people had problem finding transport.

There was heavy deployment of police and paramilitary troops and patrolling was intensified in parts of the city.

Hundreds of activists from the Sunni Tehreek staged a demonstration Friday, leading to clashes with police in which eight people were injured and more than a dozen vehicles were damaged in stone-throwing.

The religious parties are demanding dismissal of Kanwar Idrees, minister for finance, planning and development in Sindh Province, because he belongs to the minority Ahmadi sect.

Ahmadi in Pakistan lost their legal status as Muslims in 1974 when the Parliament declared them a non-Muslim sect for not subscribing to the general Muslim belief that Mohammad was the last prophet. The minority sect alleges harassment of its members by Muslims.

"It is a religious matter. The government should understand it and immediately remove the Ahmadi minister from the Cabinet," said Chief of the Sunni Tehrik, Saleem Qadri.

The religious groups demand-



KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Two policemen beat an activist of the Sunni Muslim extremist party, "Sunni Tehrik", after the protesters and police had scuffled Dec. 13. Protesters set ablaze tires on the streets, damaged several vehicles and police resorted to teargas during the demonstration against the induction of a non-Muslim minister belonging to the Ahmadi sect in the Sindh provincial Cabinet.

(AFP Photo)

ing dismissal of Idrees have organized a series of demonstrations in the past two weeks in Karachi, Sindh's capital.

Pakistan's Nobel prize laureate scientist Abdus Salam, who died in London last month, belonged to the Ahmadi sect.

Cyprus Plans to Buy Russian Missiles

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (AFP) - The Greek-Cypriot government on the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus is negotiating with Russia to buy S-300 ground-to-air missiles, despite strong warnings from Ankara.

Yannakis Cassoulides, spokesman for the Greek-Cypriot administration in Nicosia, told state radio late Friday that Cyprus was "negotiating the purchase of S-300 missiles from Russia," but he gave no further details.

"Cyprus is an independent state and can decide all matters related to its defense," added Cassoulides.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller is preparing to fly to Moscow next week for talks aimed

at persuading Russia to back out of the deal, said the radio.

Turkey on Tuesday warned the Cypriot government against "arming heavily", saying it would not allow increased threats against the Turkish Cypriots.

"I want to make it clear that Turkey will not allow for increasing threats against the (breakaway) Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and itself," Inal Batu, a senior Turkish diplomat, said in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus.

In August the Turkish-Cypriot leadership urged Russia not to go through with a sale of 50 modern tanks to the Greek-Cypriot government, but the first deliveries took place in October.

U.S. Regrets Bomb Jettisoning Off Okinawa

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed regret yesterday over the jettisoning of a bomb by a U.S. fighter in the sea off Okinawa this week, Japanese officials said.

Christopher conveyed his regrets during a 15-minute conversation with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, the officials said.

On Friday, the Tokyo government filed a complaint over the incident with the U.S. Embassy here.

According to the U.S. marine corps, the fighter jet pilot was forced to drop the 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) bomb off Okinawa's Naha Airport, after failing to release it over a training target, because the aircraft was running out of fuel.

The incident on Tuesday has sparked fresh protests among Okinawans, opposed to the concentration of U.S. bases and troops there. The anger was fueled further by the central government's delay in notifying the local authorities of the bomb.

Anti-U.S. anger on Okinawa took off after last year's rape of 12-year-old girl by three U.S. servicemen.

The bomb is believed to be lying in the sea some seven miles (11 kilometers) west of the airport on the main Okinawan island.

Tajik Clashes Continue Despite Cease-fire

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Intense clashes continued yesterday in central Tajikistan, violating a cease-fire between the government and Islamic opposition forces. Interfax reported citing Russian military sources.

Unconfirmed reports said 20 government troops had been killed in a clash at Labidzhar, 130 kilometers (78 miles) east of the capital Dushanbe, the agency said, adding that the opposition had continued to make territorial gains.

A team of United Nations observers and representatives of both sides were due in the combat zones

yesterday in an attempt to ensure that the cease-fire, signed on Wednesday in Afghanistan, would be respected.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov and Said Abdullah Nouri, head of the Islamic rebels, had agreed to the truce until next Thursday, when talks are due to be held on a Tajik peace plan in Moscow.

The failed cease-fire is believed to be a result of a clash between Nouri, head of the opposition's military wing, and Akbar Turandzjzade, leader of its political wing, who opposes the truce, Interfax reported.

Taliban Cache of Buried Ex-Government Weapons

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - Afghanistan's Taliban militia has seized an American-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile and a large cache of former government weapons that had been buried underground, Kabul officials said yesterday.

Officials at the Taliban-controlled Radio Sharai told AFP that the shoulder-fired missile was captured on Friday at Qargah center west of Kabul.

The U.S. government gave Stingers to the Mujahideen during the latter years of their 1979-89 Jihad (holy war) against occupying Soviet forces to counter Soviet air-power.

During the presidency of Burhanuddin Rabbani, who fled north when the Taliban took Kabul on September 27, a black market for Stingers grew from unconfirmed reports that the United States would buy back unused missiles for \$100,000 each.

Radio Sharai also reported the capture of a large cache of munitions last Thursday from the house of Rabbani's former minister of water and power, in a village north of Kabul.

"This was a vast quantity of arms - enough to fill 10 truck-loads," said a radio official.

The arms cache was reported to have been buried underground and protected by a belt of anti-personnel mines, which had to be cleared.

The assorted cache contained AK-47 assault rifles, anti-aircraft heavy machine-guns, recoilless rifles and anti-personnel mines.

Telephone communications

equipment was also unearthed in the haul. Excavation was still continuing in the area, the official said.

These cache was located well behind the frontlines where the fundamentalist militia is battling a coalition anti-Taliban alliance forces, including former government troops.

The main road front-line is holding at the village of Kalakan, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of the capital.

"It is quiet on the frontlines, and has been for the past two days," said acting Information and Culture Minister, Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi.

The World at a Glance



TOKYO, JAPAN - Japan and the United States reached a basic agreement yesterday over the simmering dispute over liberalization of the Japanese insurance market, Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka said.

MANAMA, BAHRAIN - Bahrain's State Security Court will issue its ruling on two Qatars charged with spying on December 18, a government official said yesterday.

BANGALORE, INDIA - Two people were killed and three injured when police opened fire yesterday to control a rioting mob in a southern Indian town, police said.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - Russia's airborne troops are to be reduced by nearly a quarter -- from 63,000 to 48,500 - by the end of the year, a spokesman for commanders told Interfax news agency yesterday.

(DISPATCHES)

Bosnian Local Elections

Probably in June

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Long-delayed Bosnian local elections may be held next June, the OSCE's mission chief in Bosnia, Robert Frowick, said here yesterday.

"My recommendation is June, which gives us many months yet to prepare," the U.S. diplomat told a press conference in the Bosnian capital.

The problem vote has already been postponed twice over parties' manipulation of voter lists along ethnic lines.

Frowick has faced opposition from the Muslim-Croat Federation which believes too much ground had been ceded to Bosnia's separatist Serbs by the OSCE to win their agreement on the holding of the polls.

They fear that the Serbs may

abuse absentee ballot systems to ensure they have majorities in key towns.

The OSCE said a December 1 agreement with the Serbs was an outline document which had yet to be finalized. However it controversially includes a regulation in which refugees and displaced persons are allowed to vote in the location of their choice, rather than in their place of origin.

"This memorandum of understanding permits Republika Srpska to sign the prolongation of the OSCE mandate, along with presidents (Alija) Izetbegovic and (Kresimir) Zubak," respectively the Muslim and Croat representatives on Bosnia's three-member collegial presidency.

The strategic northeastern town of Brcko, which is under international arbitration and coveted by both Bosnia's entities, was a target for blatant Serb vote-stacking in September, when the local elections, due to be held then as part of a multi-tier vote, were postponed.

"Municipal elections should not take place before Brcko is clarified," Frowick told reporters yesterday.

"Assuming that the arbitration will be made early in the year, Brcko could be included in these elections," added Frowick, referring to the arbitration decision due to be taken in February.

He promised "a very substantial build-up of OSCE capabilities to deal with application forms" in a bid to properly register voters and avoid a repetition of the conditions which caused previous cancellations.

"Control should be in the hands of OSCE people and other international organizations, and not in the hands of state authorities," he added.

Hindus Ransack Newspaper Office, Beat Up Staff

BOMBAY, INDIA (AFP) - Some 1,000 Hindu fundamentalists ransacked the office of a leading newspaper here yesterday and beat up journalists for criticizing militant Hindu Leader Bal Thackeray.

Journalists at "Aapla Mahanagar" (Our Metropolis) said the attackers belonging to the ruling Shiv Sena Party stormed the daily for the second day in a row.

The raiders ripped out telephone cables, smashed window panes, beat up journalists and non-

journalists and tried to set the office on fire, several witnesses said.

"There were some policemen near our office, but they did nothing to protect us," said Nikhil Wagle, the daily's editor. "This is state terrorism and a serious threat to our lives."

The Shiv Sena, headed by Thackeray, rules the western Indian state of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital. The Mahanagar is a vocal critic of Thackeray and his party.

DUBLIN, IRELAND: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (L) gestures as he chats with French President Jacques Chirac during the traditional group photo session during the summit of European Union heads of state and government at Dublin Dec. 13.

(AFP Photo)

in College

Whiplash Road to 'Riches' at Rodeo Championship

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA (AFP) - Cowboys are mounting America's meanest Bulls and Broncos for the National Finals Rodeo's (NFR) richest purse yet: \$3.2 million. World champion is the most coveted title in professional rodeo, and only those cowboys willing to spend 200 days a year on the road competing in 80 to 125 rodeos can hope for the title. The 10-day NFR's seven events have sold out a 16,500-seat arena and will be aired across the United States on the ESPN2 Network. The burgeoning media coverage has fueled the rise in prize money from \$59,000 in 1959 to this year's \$3.2 million.

Sports Highlights

Navratilova Appointed Captain of U.S. Fed Cup Team

NEW YORK (AFP) - Martina Navratilova, the only player to lead two different countries to Fed Cup titles, has been appointed captain of the United States team for 1997.

The 40-year-old Navratilova, who was never beaten in 37 matches (20 singles and 17 doubles) in the annual women's team event, replaces Billie Jean King.

King was in charge of the successful 1996 United States side which won the competition for a 15th time by beating Spain in Atlantic City in September.

Navratilova was also a member of the Czechoslovakia team which won the cup in 1975. She became a U.S. citizen in 1981 and began playing Fed Cup for the United States in 1982, helping them to the 1982, 1986 and 1989 titles.

The former world number-one's last appearance in the event was in the first round of the world group in 1995, when she and Gigi Fernandez defeated Austria's Barbara Schett and Petra Schwarz.

"I think I can really help," said Navratilova after her appointment.

"I can teach the women a thing or two about the game and it will be a great pleasure to work with these champions."

The United States open their title defense against the Netherlands in Haarlem on March 1-2.

Pakistan Keep Australia Guessing

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - Australian all-rounder Steve Waugh's biggest concern here Saturday was not his injury problems but Pakistan's unpredictability heading into Sunday's triangular one-day cricket match at the Adelaide Oval.

"You never know what to expect from the Pakistanis," said Wash, who feels he has recovered sufficiently from a groin injury to play against Wasim Akram's team.

"They're a class act with a lot of really talented players who can beat anyone on their day," he said. "It's just a matter of whether they click."

Things didn't click too well for Pakistan here Friday, resulting in an embarrassing first-up loss to the Australian Cricket Academy.

The under-strength tourists lost eight wickets for 74 as they tumbled to a surprise 13-run defeat.

Wash has declared himself fit after testing the groin injury, which kept him out of the second Sydney test against the West Indies and Australia's first two one-dayers, in Australia A's six-wicket win over the West Indies in Melbourne Friday.

Wash, who made 12 runs for Australia A and bowled five overs, said Saturday he felt no after-effects.

The Australians have yet to be exposed to the pace bowling of 20-year-old Mohammad Zahid, who burst onto the international scene less than a month ago, taking 11 wickets on his test debut.

Australia has also seen little of Pakistan's "pinch-hitter" Shahid Afridi, who smacked the fastest one-day century in 37 balls against Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Pakistan has been hit by illness but is likely to have a full 14-man squad available, wicketkeeper Moin Khan is expected to have recovered from influenza which kept him out of Friday's game.



TEHRAN: French mountain-climbing instructors Tierry Barraud (R), Dominique Dumas (middle) and Pierre de Coninck, conducting special cave climbing classes at Bande-Yakhchal north of Tehran late September.

IRAN NEWS

Hendry Crashes to O'Sullivan

OSNABRUCK, GERMANY (AFP) - Ronnie O'Sullivan handed out a shock 5-2 defeat to Scotland's Stephen Hendry here late Friday to reach a best-of-eleven frame semi-final against British Open champion Nigel Bond. Bond, the world number-five, earlier beat English compatriot Mark Davis by the same scoreline. O'Sullivan's fourth-frame 104, the 109th century of his career, was the highest of a match lasting only 74 minutes. He also added a run of 82 plus two valuable clearances of 93 in frame three and 67 in the seventh.

VOL. III. No. 628 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Sunday December 15, 1996, Azar 25, 1375, Shaban 4, 1417



NEW JERSEY: Michael Jordan (R) of the Chicago Bulls drives towards the basket against Kendall Gill of the New Jersey Nets in game action December 13 at the Continental Arena in East Rutherford.

(AFP Photo)

Cowboys Continue to Buck the Odds

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Another possible Super Bowl preview, Dallas vs New England, highlights National Football League action this weekend, when six of 12 playoff spots will be up for grabs.

Despite injury problems, the drug suspension of Leon Lett and offensive doldrums, the reigning Super Bowl champion Cowboys can clinch another National Conference East title with a victory over the Patriots, who are already assured of a playoff berth and want a win to seal the American Conference East crown.

The Cowboys have been aided in their bid for a Super Bowl repeat by their slumping Division rivals, Washington and Philadelphia.

After a sparkling seven-game winning streak, the Redskins have lost their last three, and four of their last five.

The Redskins were limited to 41 yards rushing in last Sunday's 24-10 loss at Tampa Bay. They played the Bucs without six injured starters, two of whom, wide receiver Michael Westbrook and offensive tackle Ed Simmons, might return against Arizona.

But Washington has lost six of their last seven against the Cardinals, including four straight in Arizona.

The Eagles need a win over the hapless New York Jets on Saturday to clinch a playoff spot, and they also need a Washington defeat.

Also on Saturday, Chicago host San Diego.

Another AFC vs NFC battle pits AFC Central champions Pittsburgh against San Francisco. San Francisco are already assured of a playoff berth, but they are vying with upstarts Carolina for the NFC West title.

The Panthers, who beat San Francisco twice this season, can clinch the Division title with a win against Baltimore and a San Francisco loss.

Pittsburgh are still playing for a bye-week and home-field advantage in the early rounds of the playoffs.

NFC Central winners Green Bay need a win at Detroit and a Carolina loss or tie. NFC Central rivals Minnesota also have a chance of earning a post-season spot with a win against Tampa Bay.

In other games, Kansas City can clinch a spot with a win over Indianapolis, who have to win to keep their postseason hopes alive. Cincinnati visit Houston, the New York Giants host New Orleans, St. Louis are at Atlanta, Denver host Oakland and Seattle travel to Jacksonville.

Japan's Takagi Is Back

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Striker Takuya Takagi returns after missing one game through injury to lead Japan's attack in an Asian Cup quarter-final clash with Kuwait.

In today's other quarter-final, hosts the United Arab Emirates take on former Persian Gulf war enemy Iraq in Abu Dhabi.

Takagi was clearly missed by Japan in their 1-0 victory against China but his return should boost his country's chances of maintaining the only 100 percent record in the competition.

Japan had most of the possession against China but could not find a way through until injury time when defender Naoki Soma clinched the winner.

Takagi had scored a goal in each of Japan's two previous Group matches, a 2-1 win over Syria and a 4-0 drubbing of Uzbekistan.

His striking partner Kazuyoshi Miura, Japan's most famous footballer, is yet to show his best form. He has scored one goal so far.

But if Miura is struggling, midfielder Masakiyo Maezono is living up to his tag as Japan's most promising youngster. He dominated the midfield in the game against Uzbekistan, where he scored two goals in the last four

minutes.

Kuwait go into the match on the back of a surprise 2-0 victory over one of the favorites South Korea, who co-host the 2002 World Cup with Japan, in their final Group match.

The Kuwaitis had struggled in their first two games, drawing 2-2 against newcomers Indonesia and squandering a 2-0 lead to go down 2-3 against the U.A.E.

But they dominated the Koreans and their East European coach Milan Macala promised that the Kuwaiti "Football Show" had just begun with their surprise victory.

The Japanese players must cope with the strength of striker Jassim al Houwaidi and contain inspirational captain Wail al-Habshi for the favorites to go through.

The two teams meet in Al-Ain.

Hosts the U.A.E. have been probably the 'surprise' team of the 12-nation tournament. They held South Korea in the opening match to a 1-1 draw then went on to come from behind and beat Kuwait and recorded a 2-0 victory against Indonesia.

Their veteran captain Adnan Al-Talyani is in fine form and in Zuhair Bkhait they have a superb sub on the bench who made things happen when he came on in each

of U.A.E.'s Group matches.

Iraq qualified for the quarter-finals from a strong group where they had the same number of points as favored Saudi Arabia and triple champion Iran.

Iraq reached the last eight with solid performances despite being the least prepared of all finalists, thanks to the fine performances of veteran striker Laith Shishaib and his striking partner Hayder Majeed.

Iraq have not played an international fixture in Baghdad since U.N. sanctions were imposed for the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will have a problem if Kuwait upset Japan and Iraq beat the U.A.E. as they will have to meet in the semis. Kuwait have said that they would pull out of the tournament rather than play Iraq.

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Iraq play South Korea in Dubai and Saudi Arabia take on China in Abu Dhabi in the other two-quarter finals on Monday.

PORT ASIAN CUP
Qualification Group
JAPAN
KUWAIT
South Korea
Uzbekistan
Saudi Arabia
China

IMF Resumes Lending to Russia

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - The International Monetary Fund said on Friday it approved the resumption of lending to Russia, giving the go-ahead for the release of roughly \$336 million to the struggling country.

"Executive directors approved the disbursement of the monthly (loan) tranche," an IMF spokesman said in a statement.

The IMF had withheld paying two monthly loan tranches to Russia in October and November, largely because of dissatisfaction with the low level of government revenues.

Since then, the country has worked to get back into the IMF's

good graces through a concerted drive to get Russian companies to pay the taxes they owe.

In his statement, the IMF spokesman made note of Moscow's efforts, citing the country's "improved revenue performance."

He also mentioned Russia's efforts to put its budget policy back on a sounder path, its "appropriate conduct" of monetary policy and its steps to restructure its economy.

The money is being handed over under a \$10.2 billion, three-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) loan agreement that the IMF struck with Russia last year.

Kuwait Sees No Change in Oil Prices

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - Kuwait's oil minister, Issa Mohammed al-Mazidi, said on Friday that he does expect Iraq's return to the oil market to affect crude prices.

"The amount exported by Iraq had already been taken into consideration when OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members fixed their quotas, and Iraq's return to the market will not affect prices," Mazidi was quoted by the official Kuna news agency as saying.

Mazidi made the comments before leaving for a meeting in Cairo on Saturday of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Iraqi crude started flowing

through a pipeline to Turkey on Wednesday under the first significant humanitarian exemption to six years of crippling U.N. economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

A review of Iraq's output quotas is due every three months under U.N. Security Council Resolution 986 which allows Iraq to export two billion dollars of oil every six months - or up to 550,000 barrels of oil per day at current prices.

Oil prices in London fell below \$23 per barrel Wednesday after Iraq resumed oil exports, but remain around post-Persian Gulf war high levels.

One-Third of Loans Fall Short

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - The World Bank said on Friday that an independent audit of some \$22 billion of its loans to developing countries found nearly one-third fell short of goals and were deemed unsatisfactory.

The review, conducted by an independent evaluation department at the bank, found that 68 percent of loans had satisfactory outcomes in 1995. That compared to 66 percent in the previous year.

The bank said it was a modest improvement but not a break from the long-term trend.

To be judged satisfactory, a lending project must meet goals

that are in keeping with the bank's assistance strategy and must be consistent with the bank's overall goal of poverty reduction. The loans must also use resources efficiently.

The audit reviewed 264 loans to 80 countries.

Looking at factors that affected lending projects in 1995, the bank said war and civil strife played a major role.

It said that the East Asia and Pacific region was the best performing region with 94 percent of projects rated satisfactory.

Africa ranked the lowest, with 49 percent rated satisfactory.

Japan-U.S. Insurance Talks Begin

TOKYO (Reuter) - Japan and the United States began a last-ditch effort on Saturday to resolve a dispute over the deregulation of Japanese insurance market before a Sunday deadline, officials said.

"I sincerely hope this insurance negotiation will be peacefully settled," Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka told Acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky when the talks opened.

Mitsuoka thanked Barshefsky for reading his letter while she was in Singapore to attend the inaugural ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization. The five-day gathering ended on Friday.

He also noted Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had written to U.S. President Bill Clinton and received a prompt reply. He did not elaborate on the contents of the letters.

Clinton has described the dispute as the biggest trade problem between the two countries. Washington has declined to say what

action it would take should the issue not be resolved, but said they were keeping all options open.

The disagreement centers on U.S. charges that Japan is planning to renege on a 1994 trade agreement on the deregulation of its \$400 billion insurance market.

State Property Sale Blocked

ANKARA, TURKEY (AP) - The constitutional court on Thursday blocked the sale of state property, upsetting government plans to curb the budget deficit.

The property up for sale included several luxury hotels, hostels for teachers and government shares in major highways and bridges.

The government hoped to raise some \$10 billion from the property sales and \$14 billion from the other sources. The budget deficit is expected to reach \$12.5 billion this year.

The court's explanation of its ruling will come at a later date.

EU Summit Seals Landmark Single Currency Pact

DUBLIN (Reuter) - European Union leaders marched forward to the goal of a single currency on Friday, breaking a Franco-German deadlock and sealing a landmark budget discipline pact to bolster the new euro at its launch just two years away.

The leaders also unveiled an initiative to create jobs in Western Europe and set their sights on a new EU treaty to be agreed next year to prepare the 15-nation bloc for a wave of new entrants, mainly from the former Communist East.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, who hosted the summit in Dublin, said the leaders' ability to crack the thorny issue of a single currency budget pact showed the strong political will in Europe for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

But he did not play down the Herculean task the European Union now faced of shaping itself up for the 21st century.

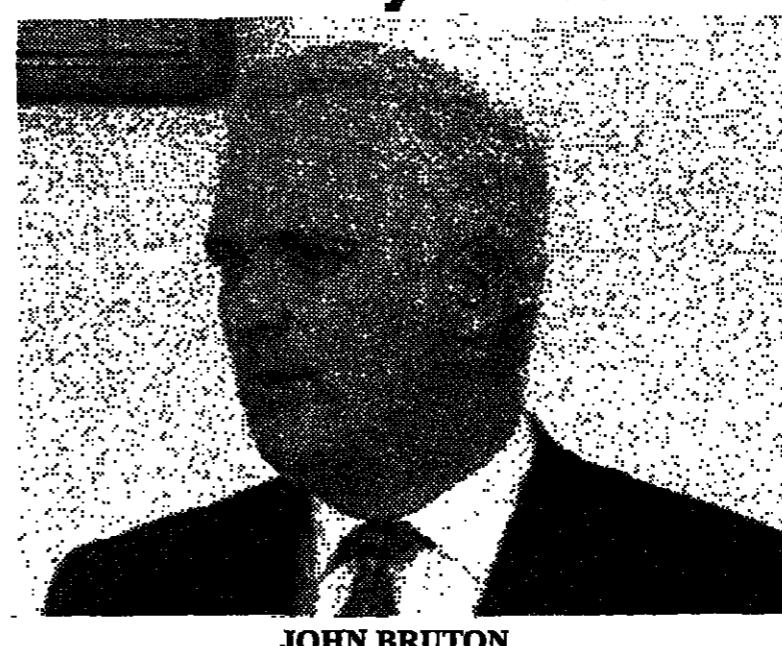
"(Agreeing the new treaty will) need the sort of inspiration which was had by those who framed the original constitution of the United States of America in the 1780s," he said.

Symbolically, on the day the EU leaders sealed the budget pact that paved the way for the introduction of the single currency, European monetary authorities also unveiled their design for the future euro banknotes.

The notes avoid national symbols, landmarks or figures, featuring generic European architectural designs and bridges instead. But they leave space for each member state to put a national symbol if the EU so decides.

The budget pact agreed on Friday was tough enough to satisfy the Bonn government which wants the euro to be as strong as the mark Germans will soon have to do without.

But EU leaders also made con-



JOHN BRUTON

day was tough enough to satisfy the Bonn government which wants the euro to be as strong as the mark Germans will soon have to do without.

But EU leaders also made con-

cessions to France and other de-

fenders of national sovereignty,

by allowing for a political judg-

ment on whether to levy fines on

those who overspend.

"This is a victory for Europe.

This is a victory for the euro," European monetary affairs com-

missioner Yves-Thibault de Sil-

gny exulted, saying approval of a

"stability and growth pact" had

sent the right signal to financial

markets.

German Finance Minister

Theo Waigel, who had pressed for

the strictest possible rules of fiscal

orthodoxy, told a news conference

he was satisfied with the outcome,

even though it fell short of the

binding, automatic sanctions

Bonn had sought.

Asia Hails WTO Pact for Helping the Poor

HONG KONG (Reuter) - Asian countries hailed a World Trade Organization (WTO) accord to help the poor, but reactions were mixed to another portion of the pact that would do away with information technology tariffs.

While government officials and experts in Tokyo, Taiwan, and Manila welcomed the effort to loosen restrictions on information technology trade, a Chinese trade expert said China and other nations would resist such moves.

Ministers from the WTO on Friday sealed a sweeping pact to free commerce in information technology, help the poor and set the agenda of world trade talks for the rest of the century.

The accord followed a week of intense and often acrimonious ne-

gotiations among the 128-member world trade watchdog.

"We welcome the fact that the WTO conference achieved much more than expected, despite difficulties," chief cabinet secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference on Friday.

"This is vital for the maintenance and development of the free, multilateral trade system," said Kajiyama, the top Japanese government spokesman.

Taiwan's prodigious computer exporters hailed the progress towards freeing commerce in information technology, saying it would benefit the global industry.

Acer Inc and first international computer shrugged off concerns that a pact signed by 28 states - including Taiwan - to eliminate

tariffs by 2000 would lead to a "technology invasion" of less-developed countries.

"Many countries are afraid of the so-called technology invasion and therefore are against lowering tariffs," Acer Chairman Stan Shih said in a statement.

"But this merely hinders full implementation and development of technology," Shih said.

A Chinese trade expert on Friday welcomed the accord that pledged help for the poor but said China and other nations would oppose scrapping tariffs on infor-

mation technology.

"This is (a) very good start for developing countries," said Li Yushi, a department head at the International Trade Research Institute, of the agreement. The institute is affiliated with the ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation.

"It is unlikely at this juncture that developing countries can remove all trade restrictions on information technology products - whether these are tariff or non-tariff barriers," Li told Reuters by telephone.

The new company will be 60 percent owned by Bridgestone and 40 percent by its Japanese partner.

Bridgestone Chairman Deane Jarvis said he believes the new joint venture will keep pace with the rapid changes in technology and will be competitive in the automotive components market that is increasingly becoming global.

DETROIT - The former GM executive who defected to Volkswagen asked a U.S. judge to delay General Motors Corp.'s spying case against him and said he would refuse to testify if forced to come to the United States. Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, accused by GM of taking company secrets to Volkswagen AG in March 1993, has been charged by German prosecutors along with three others with embezzlement and betrayal of corporate secrets.

GM is suing Lopez in a civil suit brought in Federal Court in Detroit. About 5,000 farmers rallied in front of the assembly, calling the raise too small. Police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters, but some angry farmers resisted, throwing rocks.

Economic Digest

MANILA - The Philippines' trade deficit for the first 10 months of 1996 swelled 41 percent from a year earlier to \$10.09 billion, the government announced Friday.

But economists said the country's accelerating imports weren't much of a cause for concern since most consist of capital equipment and other heavy industrial products, such as airplanes.

Much of the capital equipment will go into factories, where it is expected to help increase production and help pay for imports in the future.

"What's important is financing our imports, and we have been getting much help also from overseas workers' remittances," said Conrad Andres, vice president for research of DBP-Daiwa Securities Philippines.

Money sent home by the country's many overseas workers is expected to reach a record \$7 billion this year.

Andres said the trade report shows the country can keep within its projected trade deficit for the year of \$12 billion.

TOKYO - Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. and video game maker Sega enterprises said Friday they will jointly make a home-use video telephone system based on Sega's 32-bit Saturn video game player.

The companies said they will produce an adaptor for the Saturn containing a microphone and a video camera that would allow users to have live video conversations over high-speed integrated services digital network phone lines.

The adaptor can also be used with standard analog phone lines, an NTT official said. But the picture quality would be better when used with high speed digital lines.

The two companies plan to begin selling the adaptor as early as the spring of 1997. They hope to sell about 20,000 units in the first year, at a price between 30,000-40,000 yen (\$265-350).

Sega has sold about 4 million units of Saturn game player since it hit the market two years ago.

ADELAIDE - Bridgestone Australia Ltd. will sell its automotive components division for A\$41 million (\$U.S. 33 million) to a joint venture company it has formed with Japanese firm Toyoda Gosei Co. The sale was accepted by stockholders on Friday.

The new company will be 60 percent owned by Bridgestone and 40 percent by its Japanese partner.

Bridgestone Chairman Deane Jarvis said he believes the new joint venture will keep pace with the rapid changes in technology and will be competitive in the automotive components market that is increasingly becoming global.

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GM is suing Lopez in a civil suit brought in Federal Court in Detroit.

Great White Shark to Be Protected from Man

SYDNEY (AFP) - As nature conservationists warn that sharks are in danger of extinction, an Australian state government has ruled that the great white is to be protected from its biggest enemy: man.

Anyone who kills a great white or the white pointer shark, or is found with one will face a \$16,000 fine or six months in jail, New South Wales State Fisheries Minister Bob Martin told reporters here this week.

The ban was in response to concerns about dwindling numbers of great whites, which now join the relatively docile gray nurse and hammerhead shark as protected species on Australia's southeast coast.

The great white can be six-meters (almost 20 feet) long and

weigh two tones, but despite its fearsome man-eating "jaws" reputation, experts say the humble bee is a deadlier killer.

An average of one person a year has been killed by sharks - usually great whites - in Australian waters over the last 15 years, while statistics show two people die from bee stings each year, shark expert John Paxton told AFP.

But the problem for the great white is that it really is the most ferocious hunter in the ocean - an "apex predator" - with a slow reproductive capacity.

It had no enemies in its habitat and therefore no natural need to reproduce at the rate of fish lower on the food chain - until man started hunting them for sport in increasing numbers, Paxton said. Large sharks are not usually eaten

because of the risk of mercury poisoning.

"The great white produces six to 10 young in a good year, none in a bad year and this is just not enough," said Paxton, who is principal research scientist at the Australian Museum.

"This is a huge animal, very fast swimming and the data that are available indicate that the population has been decreasing for some decades.

Their prime food source are marine mammals and man is a terrestrial mammal so what they are mostly eating are seals and sea lions and as the apex predator they are the control for these marine mammals.

If the great white shark goes in Southern Australia then you would expect to see an explosion of seal

and sea lion populations and that then ripples down with an effect on the fish these animals eat and great interaction with commercial fishers in that area.

"It is a complex community down there and we are disturbing it."

However, internationally renowned Queensland shark hunter Vic Hislop described the New South Wales decision as "disgusting." He said: "for a government to protect something that can tear your children apart in a matter of seconds is brainless."

The decision by New South Wales follows failure to reach national consensus on granting the man-eaters protected status at a meeting of state and federal fisheries ministers in September.

The Australian branch of the

U.S.-based Human Society International (HSI) urged Canberra earlier to follow New South Wales and give the great white nationwide protection.

It is already protected in Tasmania and from commercial fishing in South Australia while Victoria is considering listing the species as endangered.

The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) warned that the world's shark population could die out because the fish are being killed for their meat, fins and skin.

The WWF said that between 30

and 70 million sharks are killed every year, but there are few controls to regulate shark fishing.

Michael Sutton, director of WWF's endangered seas campaign, said some 125 countries are now involved in the shark fins trade, while the demand for shark meat is rising and now features regularly in the diets of Europeans.

Shark cartilage is marketed as an alternative but unproven cancer treatment and used in the manufacture of lubricants, bactericides, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, while shark skin is used for leather products.

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During the Second Gathering of Tehran Province's Mayors in the Autumn of 1996 in the Town of Shahriyār

Tehran Province's Model and Active Mayors Chosen

On the sidelines of this gathering Mr. Reza Zadeh Developments Affairs deputy to the provincial governor of Tehran announced the qualifications and values used for choosing the mayor of Qarchak as the model mayor.

1. Acting lawfully.
2. Choosing the priorities in development works based on the needed city per capita and also the construction and inauguration of various development projects.

office management in order to ease the way for the people.

7. Use of proper and correct methods in the septic collection, transportation and burial of garbage, and also the expansion of the green areas and other services.

Based on all this, our correspondent interviewed Mr. Rasool Kesht Pour, the respected mayor of Qarchak who was chosen as one of the model mayors that has prepared a report about the achievements and activities of

with an active and industrious population in an area of 48 sq.km including districts like Ziba Shah, Bagher Abad and other small and big population centers continues its growth and life. Its people are working in the economic, agricultural, industrial and services sectors.

Qarchak Municipality has been able to complete and bring into exploitation lens of development, cultural, and service projects in a short time by planning and direct-

The same report adds, in a ceremony held on the occasion of the sixth day of the "Government Week" at the library in Qarchak's Ziba Shah, General Baqai, Air Force commander, Mr. Reza Zadeh, deputy provincial governor for developments, Mr. Qomi, Varamin's representative at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Nassiri, the district governor of Varamin, and other provincial and city of Varamin officials and also a group of the great families of the martyrs and sacrificers, were present. Because of this occasion Mr. Kesht Pour, the mayor of Qarchak in a speech said that the implementation of cultural projects in the province's southern towns is in fact the materialization of a kind of social justice which can be earned by passing on the road of development.

According to the above report, Mr. Seyed Jali Seyed Tehran's provincial governor also made a speech on the progress of the development projects and the construction of the country, and by expressing his pleasure for the construction of the first cultural center in the city of Varamin, also expressed his gratefulness to Mr. Kesht Pour Qarchak's mayor for his role in the expansion of the region's cultural affairs. Then he called the naming of this library and cultural center after the name of the martyr of the Air Force General Sattari nice and auspicious.

Following this report our corre-

newly constructed towns such as Talaieh, Alhadid, Sofalran, performing studying projects such as the preparing of the city plans, city limits, and also preparing the

brick-making plants so conducting the soil spreading and foundation building and asphalt putting imposes considerable costs to the municipality and the complete



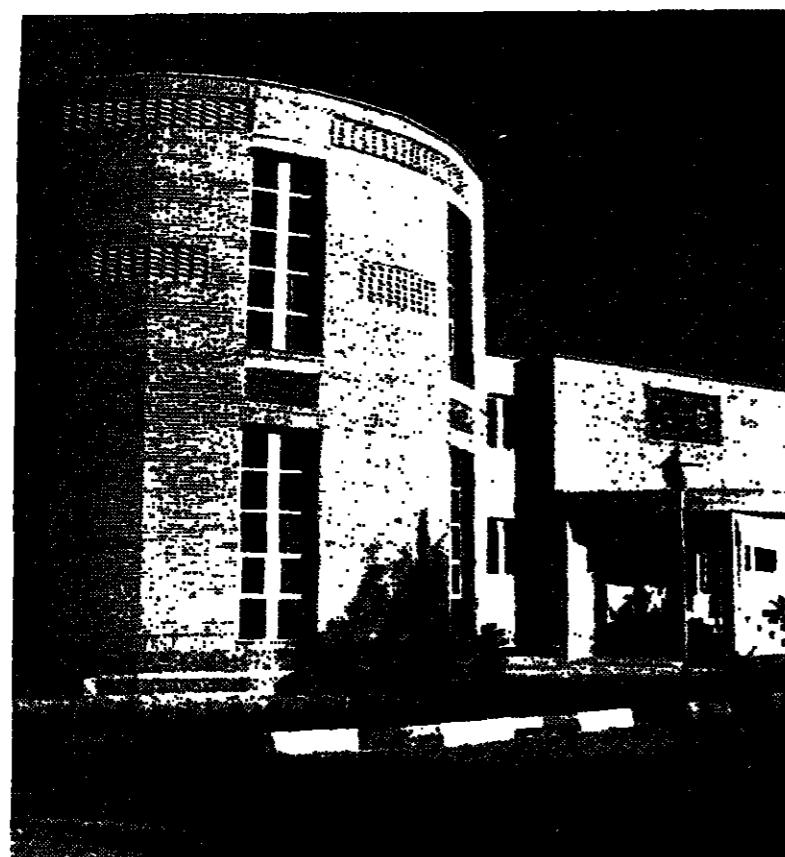
Mr. Kesht Poor, Qarchak Mayor

maps, have all been among the activities of the municipality which has another 17 projects under way at the present time.

One of the important and fundamental projects which is under way by the municipality of Qarchak and is currently going through its completion phase is the Vali-e Asr Grand Cultural and Sports Complex which has an indoor swimming pool equipped with the proper heating system, sauna and steam room, and also an indoor sports stadium and arena specified for indoor sports which will be constructed during

cost for the implementation of the mentioned project reaches 2,000,000,000 rials.

Our correspondent in continuing his report added, putting up walls and making spaces around Bagher Abad's historic bridge of 15th of Khordad is another of the important and fundamental projects of the municipality of Qarchak, which at the present time 50 percent of its wall construction has been completed and the job of purchasing and thus freeing the land lots around the bridge has been accomplished, and by com-



Shahid Sattari Cultural Complex

3. preparation and arrangement of municipality's budget and innovation in increasing the city's income, and also directing the budget toward supplying the city's per capita.

4. Accurate timing on obtaining "deputy permits" in order to implement the development projects and other executive affairs.

5. Accurate execution and abiding by the various orders and guidelines in the building, property, finance and office license issuing departments.

6. Innovations in the finance and office departments, for instance, the way of preserving and preventing waste of the movable and immovable properties particularly the preparation of the municipality's property book and also the use of proper methods in

Qarchak Municipality. Below is the text:

Qarchak mayor, during the ceremonies for the implementation of Shahid Sattari Cultural Center said:

Implementation of Cultural Projects in the Province's Southern Towns is the Materialization of a Type of Social Justice which Can Be Achieved by Going Through the Path of Development.

The town of Qarchak with an area about 60 square kilometers is located 25 km south of Tehran, Tehran-Varamin highway. It has a population of about 180,000 people, and a growth population rate of 4.7 percent has turned this town into one of the populated towns in the Tehran province.

The city of Qarchak, today

ising the municipality's budget toward the designated goals. These included the construction of the library and Qarchak's Shahid Sattari Cultural Center which were inaugurated and its exploitation started in the presence of the people and the officials during the "Government Week", he added.

This report adds, the above-mentioned complex has been constructed in a lot with an area of 30,400 sq.m with 2,500 sq.m of walled area which includes 4 studying halls, 7 classrooms, mass hall, main book storage, dining hall, prayer hall and services sections with the capacity of more than 60,000 books, the mentioned library has been constructed by spending the amount of up to 1,000,000,000 rials by the municipality of Qarchak.



A View of Qarchak's City Entrance

spondent adds, the implementation of more than 5 libraries and centers of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, the construction of two 10-classroom schools, 4 sports centers including a sports stadium and a swimming pool, plus the implementation of more than 150 road and bridge construction projects, widening and inaugurating of new routes, also putting into order the city's entrances and exits and beautifying the routes, the construction of 10 local parks, the construction of several service centers including the Municipality Services Station and Bager Abad fire station, putting asphalt on the city's alleys and streets at the level of 230,000 sq.m, repairing of the asphalt damaged by the diggings of other departments at the level of 170,000 sq.m, innovating and curb constructing of the alleys at the level of 160 km, performing the finishing touches of the 3

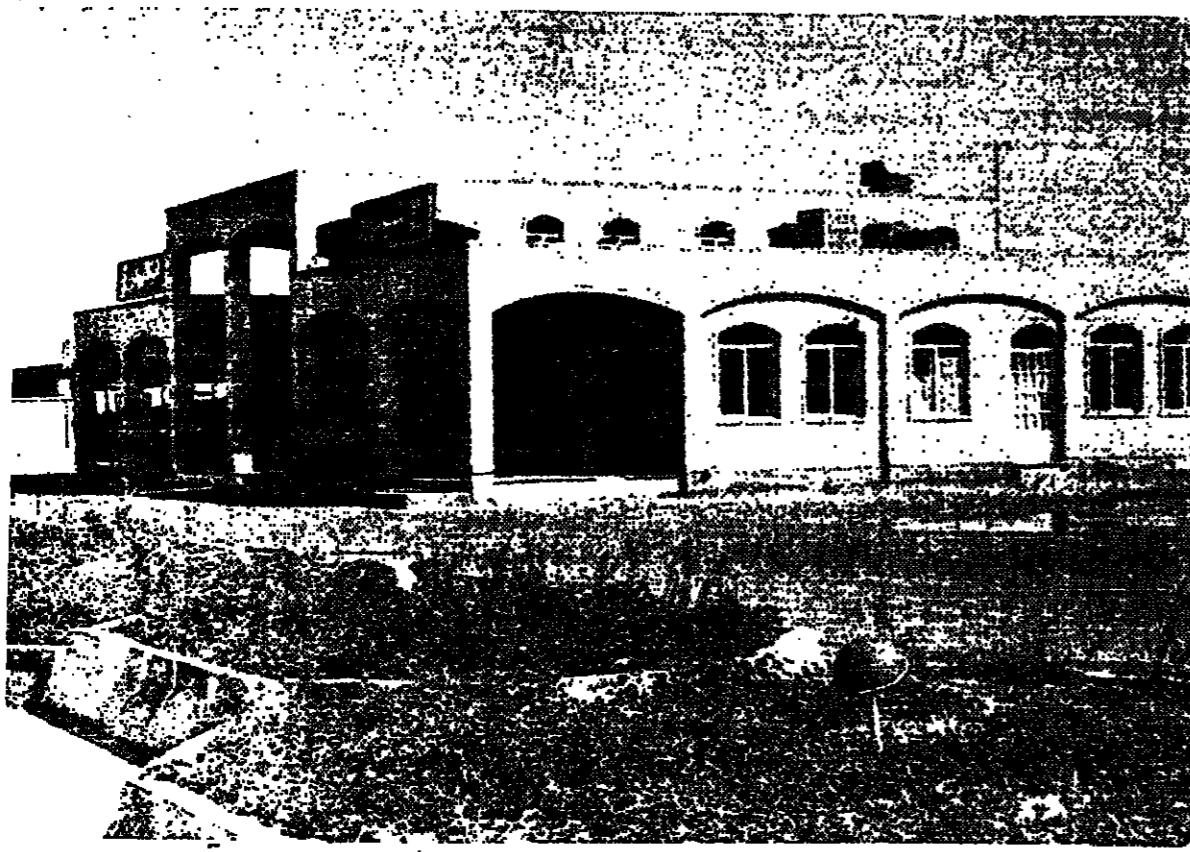
the second phase, and at the present time also the completion plan for the spacing and routing of this grand complex has been prepared which we hope for its completion at a suitable time so it can be used by all the city's residents.

Another one of the projects under way by the civic offices is the 35-meter-wide north Qarchak Blvd. (circles the northern part of Qarchak) that its executive operations started at the beginning of the year in the presence of Tehran's provincial governor, and our correspondent, regarding its level of progress, added: North Qarchak 35-meter Blvd. is the city's main axis which will be connected from Tehran to Varamin and from the north to Fardis and Pakdasht, the length of this road in the first phase is 10 km which reduces a major portion of the city's traffic load.

The same report adds, some of these road-crossings are over the deeps which had been dug by the

completing this phase of the plan, the implementation of the municipality's plan for putting the above place in order and making the environment healthy will initiate.

He added, considering the per capita level of the routes in Qarchak and the grave shortage existing in this regard, the municipality immediately after receiving the notification of the passed plan which has been done during the current year, will make the effort for the construction of new routes and also the reopening of the routes which within the next 2 years are given special priorities and will spend a major portion of its funds on the above projects. He pointed that currently, the routes per capita is 13 meters which relative to 3 years ago it has had a 40 percent increase, but for reaching the desired level it must reach the maximum of 21.5 meters.



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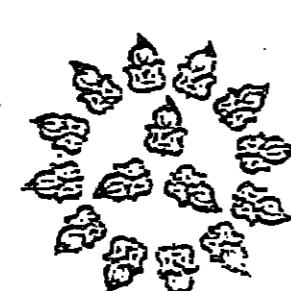
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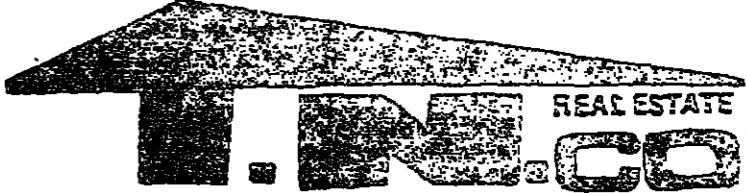
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SYMBOL OF QUALITY

Renoir's Portraits, Impressions of an Age Canadian Gallery Makes Renoir a Movable Feast

TORONTO (Reuters) - The dream had lived in the mind of curator Colin Bailey for more than five years: to assemble one of the greatest collections ever of Impressionist master Renoir.

After some bartering and cajoling with the world's great museums, private galleries and individual collectors, Bailey is about to see his dream come true. An exhibition of some 65 works entitled "Renoir's Portraits: Impressions of an Age," opens on June 27 and runs through Sept. 14 at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

It travels to the Art Institute of Chicago for a run from next Oct. 21 to Jan. 4, 1998 and then to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas from Feb. 8 to April 26, 1998.

Bailey, British-born chief curator of Canada's Premier Art Gallery, said the exhibition was the culmination of many years of hard work. And in some respects the results exceeded even his expectations.

"The works are so important that it becomes a very big undertaking," Bailey said in a telephone interview. "I sometimes feel humbled at how successful we've been."

Some of the paintings such as those from Japan have never been on public display. Others, as in the case of works from Russia, have not been seen in the West for several decades.

Reuniting Renoir Works

Bailey went to great lengths to reunite works that Renoir meant to

be seen together. He obtained the 1871 portrait of Madame Marie Octavie Bernier from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for the exhibition and traveled to Dresden, Germany, where he managed to obtain from a gallery the painting of her husband, Capt. Edouard Bernier. "There is certainly a chemical reaction to bringing works together that cannot normally be seen under the same roof," Bailey said.

Edmond Pillsbury, director of Fort Worth's Kimbell Museum, who has worked with Bailey on the collection, said it would yield a lot of new information about Renoir and boost the artist's already tow-

ering reputation. "The selection of the art will be staggering," Pillsbury predicted.

Pierre Auguste Renoir, who was born in 1841 and died in 1919, was considered the most accessible of the 19th century Impressionist school. He was loved by many for his romantic visions, particularly the women and crowd scenes he painted.

Many scholars have been fascinated by his portraits, especially those painted under commission. Renoir took his commissioned portraits as seriously as his other works, leaving his mark as an avant-garde artist of the day.

The Leading Impressionist Portraitist

Renoir is the leading portraitist of the Impressionists and some of the works are absolutely sublime," said Douglas Druick, curator of paintings, prints and drawing at the Art Institute of Chicago.

The works in the collection range from 1862 to 1917 and have been gathered from a variety of sources. They include rare works and some that are better known such as "Madame Georges Charpentier and Her Children" from the Metropolitan.

It was the scholarship that the exhibition would produce that

Bailey used most often as an argument when convincing galleries and collectors to lend their precious works.

Bailey has been fascinated by the deeper meanings behind the portraits and has been eager to learn more about the sitters that Renoir portrayed — sometimes even from the direct descendants themselves. He traveled to Japan, France, Russia and the United States to talk personally to museums and collectors in a dogged effort to obtain the best works.

"It's an article of faith that you have to see everything in person and it's also a great pleasure," Bailey said.

Exhibition of Fasooneki Paintings at Barg Gallery

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Three collections of paintings by the Iranian master, Mohammad Fasooneki is on display at halls 1, 2 & 3 of the Barg Gallery.

Hall No. 1 presents paintings of human figures, natural landscapes and flowers, while halls 2 and 3 present still life and human portraits respectively.

Master Fasooneki, who has recently returned home after years of studies abroad, lives in the city of Tabriz and devotes all his time to his artistic activity.

The exhibitions will run through December 24, and visiting hours are 9:30 - 12:00 a.m. & 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Address: No. 12/1 Shahid Daman Afshar, Vali-e Asr Avenue (North of Vanak Square).

Painting Exhibition at Andishe Gallery

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

An exhibition of paintings by Mina Mokhtarzadeh will open at Andishe Gallery on Monday December 16.

Visiting hours are 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The exhibition is scheduled to run through December 20.

Address: Andishe Farhangsara, Opposite Payam Club, Dr. Shariati Avenue (South of Seyed Khandan Overpass).

Relief Calligraphy Exhibition at Naqsh Gallery

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Naqsh Gallery will be presenting an exhibition of plaster calligraphy by Nosratollah Bokrani from Sunday December 15.

Entitled 'Return to Origins,' the show will run through December 26, and visiting hours are 9:00 - 12:00 a.m. & 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Address: Jashnvar Street, Esraaq Junction.

Advertising, Consumerism Critic Vance Packard Dies

EDGARTOWN, MASS. (Reuters) - Vance Packard, author of "The Hidden Persuaders" and other books criticizing advertising and the consumer society, died early on Thursday in Martha's Vineyard Hospital, an aide said. He was 82.

Packard, who worked as a journalist until the mid-1950s, gained fame with his 1957 book "The Hidden Persuaders," which exposed many of the psychological tools Madison Avenue used to build sales.

A 1987 Forbes magazine article paid homage to him for disclosing advertising techniques. Women will pay 25 cents for a bar of soap that cleans their hands, he pointed out, but \$2.50 for one that promises to make their hands beautiful. Selling plain soap is peddling product performance; add some skin cream and you are selling hope.

Born in Granville Summit, Pennsylvania, Vance Oakley Packard obtained a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University.

See Page 13

Ray Bradbury Writes for Love and Understanding

NEW YORK (AP) - Ray Bradbury may be the best-known science fiction and fantasy writer alive, but he flinches when reminded he's famous.

It's not the fame, or the money that has motivated him to write 500 short stories, dozens of screenplays, help design Disney's EPCOT center and consult for city planners. It's "love," he says.

And, the best thing about his latest book tour, he says, is the "love" he gets from fans.

"You write so that people will like what you do, and come up to you on the street and say, 'I love you,'" he said in an interview, tilting back his head, his hair falling over the collar of his brown, tweed jacket. "That's what you want when you're 15, but you don't get."

Bradbury's latest book, "Quicker than the Eye," is his

first collection in more than eight years and has spurred him to take his first nationwide book tour in 64 years of writing.

The 21 stories he has written in the book paint a whimsical, fantastic and sometimes testifying portrait of memories from Bradbury's 76 years of life.

"Exchange" tells of a young man who, like Bradbury, went back to his hometown library to visit the "friends" he'd made in the books he borrowed, 10 at a time.

In "Another Fine Mess," two women hear ghosts whose voices belong to Laurel and Hardy, the slapstick actors who enthralled Bradbury on a trip he made to Ireland 40 years ago.

In "Dorian in Excelsis," an amorphous blob absorbs the evils of beautiful men in a "gymnasium," actually a palace that

greatly upset Bradbury when he went to see it with a friend 30 years ago.

The book is dedicated "with love" to Dom Albright, the owner of 5,000 of Bradbury's writings and a close friend of 20 years.

It's also the first book with his new publisher, Avon, where he switched after feeling neglected at Knopf. At Avon, "I've got a whole family of new people," he said.

Bradbury first gained widespread notice in 1950 with "The Martian Chronicles," a series of vignettes about rapacious earthmen destroying the red planet. It has sold more than 3 million copies.

He gained even wider attention from "Fahrenheit 451," his book on censorship and book-burning, when director Francois Truffaut

made it into a movie in 1966.

Since then, he's won some of the most prestigious awards in his field, including the Hugo and Nebula, and is the "world's greatest science fiction writer," he said.

He then abashedly disavowed the remark, and said he'd been joking.

"It's the work that counts, not any reputation," he said. "My solution to the problem is not knowing that I'm Ray Bradbury."

It has taken him this long to go on a nationwide book tour because he didn't overcome his fear of flying until he forced himself with the help of three martinis — about 10 years ago.

Bradbury's work habits have never changed. He is still "jolted" awake by "muses" then pounds out stories on a typewriter for four hours every morning.

"I write them impulsively. They're explosions. Nothing's ever researched," he said. "I write them from beginning to end in two hours, and they never change."

Last year, he said, he wrote parts of two novels, a couple of screenplays, seven "straight plays" and "a lot of poetry."

After moving with his family to Los Angeles at the age of 14, Bradbury hounded comedian George Burns until Burns finally used a gag the young man had written — the first piece of Bradbury writing anyone ever used.

His first sale came at age 21, a collaboration with Henry Hasse

called "Pendulum," to "Super Science Stories."

Because he loves writing and literature, he persevered into his late 30s, when he could finally make a living from words. (He lived with his parents until he was 27, and sold newspapers for awhile.) Because he loves dinosaurs, a friend hired him to write a screenplay about the beasts.

Bradbury recently started working on a new novel but doesn't yet know what it's about.

"Even if I did, I wouldn't tell you ... You must never talk about something you're doing. You destroy the impulse," he said.

It's other people, he said, who have labeled him a science fiction writer.

"I've never written science fiction. That myth got started, and it's never stopped. 'The Martian Chronicles' is fantasy," he said. "The only novel that's true science fiction is 'Fahrenheit 451'."

His newest title, "Quicker than the Eye," comes from one of its stories, about a magic show reminiscent of one that excited Bradbury's imagination when he saw it at age eight while growing up in Illinois.

In the book's afterword, Bradbury writes that, "Frozen with awe" for hours, he discovered what to do with his life.

"I knew I must become a magician. That's what happened, isn't it?" he asks. "I pretend to do one thing, cause you to blink, and in the instant seize 20 bright silks out of a bottomless hat."

Szymborska Steals Nobel Limelight

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Scandinavia's social event of the year — the glittering Nobel awards and banquet — was hijacked on Tuesday by a dainty 73-year-old poet from Poland.

As royalty and diplomats paid their respects in Stockholm's city hall, Wislawa Szymborska, Poland's most famous poet, delighted Swedes with a display of awkward modesty and charm.

"The only thing that seems relevant to say in such an atmos-

phere is thank you, merci," Szymborska told an audience of 1,250 in French after accepting the Nobel literature prize for her poetry.

Szymborska, the second poet in two years to win the prize, has impressed Swedes since she arrived in Stockholm clutching a large handbag, saying she was terrified of her new-found fame.

In a solemn ceremony earlier on Tuesday, Szymborska looked shy and girlish as she bowed gaudily to admiring Swedes

gathered to see King Carl XVI Gustaf present the Nobel prizes.

All Nobel awards — worth more than \$1.0 million each — are presented in Stockholm, apart from the Nobel peace prize, which is presented in Oslo.

Two West Timor human rights campaigners received their 1996 Nobel peace prize on Tuesday and immediately called on Jakarta to open talks on a peace settlement in the small Indonesian-ruled territory.

His first sale came at age 21, a collaboration with Henry Hasse

Clinton Announces U.N. Envoy, Economic Advisers

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton on Friday named two longtime friends and allies to his Cabinet, saying he would nominate Representative Bill Richardson to be his new U.N. ambassador and William Daley to be commerce secretary.

Richardson, a seven-term Democratic veteran of the House of Representatives who has built a formidable reputation as a diplomatic troubleshooter, was someone "who can not only talk but also act effectively," Clinton said.

He praised Daley, who led the 1993 drive for approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement and more recently orchestrated the Chicago Democratic Convention in August, as "a man of rare effectiveness."

At the crowded, stuffy news conference which had a moment of drama when Daley fainted and fell off the stage, Clinton also named White House aide Gene Sperling to head the National Economic Council (NEC) and said he wanted acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to have permanent status.

All but Sperling require Senate confirmation, and initial reaction in the Republican-led body to Clinton's latest flurry of appointments was cautious.

Clinton also kept several administration holdovers on his second-term team, announcing that Attorney General Janet Reno, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner and White House Budget Director Franklin Raines would all be retained.

He named Daniel Tarullo, who had been in the running to direct the NEC, as his international economic adviser.

The flurry of appointments still left a number of other vacancies to be filled, including the top jobs at the departments of Labor, Transportation, Energy and Housing, as well as chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers. Clinton hopes to complete his team by Christmas.

Richardson, 49, has shown a knack for negotiating the release of Americans held prisoner abroad. Clinton pointed out that just this week Richardson "was huddled in a rebel chieftain's hut in Sudan, eating barbecued goat and negotiating the freedom of three hostages."

At the United Nations he would succeed Madeleine Albright, whom Clinton has nominated to be his next secretary of state.

But a spokesman for conservative Sen. Jesse Helms, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Richardson would face tough questioning on U.N. reform.

"The confirmation process is not going to be a rubber-stamp process," spokesman Mark Thieszen said.

Daley, 48, is part of a powerful Chicago political family that has produced two city mayors including the current one, his brother Richard. A lawyer and longtime Clinton political ally who was bitterly disappointed when he was passed over for the Cabinet in 1992, Daley gave the gathering a start when he collapsed just after his acceptance remarks.

He was helped from the room and examined by a White House physician and returned a few minutes later to applause.

The White House said Daley, who had not eaten lunch, had fainted from the overheated climate in the packed executive office building auditorium where the session was held.

Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott said Daley's first task would be to restore the credibility of the Commerce Department, which is tangled in controversy over Clinton's campaign fund raising tactics and faces Republican efforts to dismantle it.

Daley will need to remove political fund raising from the job descriptions of commerce's employees and cooperate with Congress in the investigations of charges that the department solicited illegal foreign political contributions, Lott said.

New U.N. Secretary-General Is Longtime Bureaucrat, Just What U.S. Wanted

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Kofi Annan, the West African picked to become U.N. secretary-general, is a longtime bureaucrat well-versed in the intricate workings of the United Nations. In short, just what Washington wanted.

Born in the English-speaking nation of Ghana, Annan has spent 30 years at U.N. posts in Egypt, Ethiopia and Switzerland as well as at headquarters in New York.

Annan, the 58-year-old chief of U.N. peacekeeping, has a "style of quiet elegance," said U.S. Magistrate Jack Mason, a former classmate at Macalester College in Minnesota.

"He powerfully delivered points in the most understated way," Mason told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from St. Paul.

"He sort of combined the qualities of, on the exterior, having a very nice self-deprecating sense of humor yet there (being) an inner strength that just radiates," he said.

A fashionable dresser who favors charcoal business suits that accent his salt-and-pepper gray hair and goatee, Annan was the U.S. choice to succeed Boutros Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian whose bid for a second term was opposed by Washington, which called him too slow on promoting U.N. reform.

In an interview Friday with the Associated Press, Annan said his main goal would be to work closely with the 185 U.N. member states to decide "what sort of U.N. we want in the 21st century and in a climate where financial resources are diminishing."

Washington had said it wanted a secretary-general with enough administrative skills to push through a streamlining of U.N. operations.

Annan first captured U.S. attention when he helped negotiate the release of Western hostages held by Iraq during the Persian Gulf War and resolve the plight of 500,000 Asians stranded in Kuwait and Iraq.

He also served as special envoy for Boutros-Ghali to the former Yugoslavia and to NATO after



File photo taken Oct. 13 1995 shows Ghanaian Kofi Annan succeeding Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

(AFP Photo)

peace accords last year ended the 3 1/2-year Bosnian War.

As U.N. undersecretary for peacekeeping operations, he administered a budget of \$3.8 billion.

From his 37th floor office overlooking New York's East River, Annan oversees 18 operations ranging from factional fighting in Somalia to the refugee crisis in Rwanda and a multinational force in Bosnia.

Annan recalled his first American experience in a 1994 speech at his alma mater, Macalester. "My

arrival in St. Paul marked my first trip outside Africa, my first experience of the changing seasons, my first encounter with winter.

"To a child of the tropics, bundling up in the endless layers of winter wear was a nuisance. ... One odd item seemed both strange and inelegant, ear muffs. I was determined not to wear them. Only when I returned from a brisk winter walk with my ears nearly frozen did I have to conclude that the natives probably knew what they were doing."

This was an early lesson that Macalester taught me, never walk into an environment and assume that you understand it better than the people who live there. That lesson has been useful ever since."

Annan, who speaks French as well as several African languages, began his public service career as an administrative and budget officer at the World Health Organization in Geneva in 1962.

His career includes jobs as assistant secretary-general in the U.N. Office of Human Resources and as a finance director, deputy chief of administration, and head of personnel for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Annan received a bachelor's degree in economics from Macalester in 1961. He also has a master's degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a post-graduate certificate in economics from the Institute for Advanced International Studies in Geneva.

Annan and his second wife, the Swedish-born Nane Cronstedt, live in New York City. Her mother is the sister of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued tens of thousands of Jews from the Nazis in Hungary near the end of World War II.

"It's a nice completion of the circle," said Mason. "The Swede who saved so many Jews during World War II, his niece is now married to the secretary-general of the U.N."

In 1994, Annan told a reporter he turns to nature when his work gets to him. "I enjoy taking a walk in the woods. I need to find the isolation, because I can no longer leave my work at work as I used to."

"When I pick up the paper or turn on the television, my work is often right there in front of me."

That may be truer more now than ever.

New Clinton Economic Team to Hit Ground Running

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (Reuters)

- The economic team unveiled by President Bill Clinton on Friday is a pragmatic group with enough experience to hit the ground running, analysts said.

That is all to the good because it will be quickly confronted by a host of tricky issues, from deciding how to balance the \$1.5 trillion federal budget to dealing with the growing economic might of China.

"This isn't time for on-the-job training," said Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution think-tank.

As he did when he named his foreign policy team earlier this month, Clinton put a premium on loyalty and continuity in putting together the group that will shape economic policy in his second, four-year term.

If the team has any weaknesses, analysts said, it is that it may be a bit short on experience in the international economic arena and in dealing with Congress.

"It's a strong team," said Leslie Alperstein, president of Consultants HSBC Washington Analysis. "It's very pragmatic and practical."

The group for all intents and purposes will be headed by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, the 58-year-old former Wall Street executive who helped to put it together as a member of Clinton's

transition team.

"Bob Rubin has been the captain of our economic team for four years, first as director of the National Economic Council, and now as secretary of the Treasury," Clinton said. "And I am pleased that he will stay on."

A moderate Democrat with strong ties to the business community, Rubin is an ardent advocate of a strong dollar and a balanced federal budget.

The team will also include workaholic Gene Sperling as head of the White House's National Economic Council (NEC), Chicago's William Daley as commerce secretary, lawyer Charlene Barshefsky as U.S. trade representative and former business executive Franklin Raines as budget director.

In announcing his choices, Clinton made clear the premium he placed on the team working together to aid the economy.

Analysts said he should have little worry in that regard. Although Rubin is expected to be the dominant player, his self-effacing style should help limit any conflict.

"He will be first among equals," said LM Destler, a visiting fellow at the Institute for International Economics think-tank and a University of Maryland professor.

Destler said Rubin has little to gain from undermining the NEC, which he headed before joining Treasury and which is responsible for coordinating administration economic policy.

As deputy at NEC, first to Rubin, then to departing policymaker Laura Tyson, the 38-year-old Sperling won high marks for his ability to blend politics and economics. But his expertise was on the domestic side, not international.

Perhaps in recognition of that, Clinton on Friday said that Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers will also serve as a principal on the NEC.

Summers is Treasury's point man in dealings with America's major trading partners and was instrumental in putting together the successful economic rescue package for Mexico last year.

Clinton also elevated Daniel Tarullo, a 44-year-old former Harvard Law School professor, to the newly created post of assistant to the president for international economic policy.

Tarullo, who at one time had been rumored to be in the running to share the top spot at NEC with Sperling, has labored for nearly two years in the shadows as the

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HEBRON: Israeli paratroopers stand guard at the entry of the Islamic University in Hebron in the West Bank Dec. 9, after about 100 students broke into the campus to press their demands that the facility be reopened after two years by the Israeli army. The students obtained a pledge from Israeli authorities to reopen the place.

(AFP Photo)

Freedom in the Islamic Framework of Human Rights

With Special Reference to the Nahj Al-Balaghah

Dr. Seyed Waheed Akhtar

Part Two

In this context all the controversies in *kalam* seem to be pointless and irrelevant. The Qadarite and the Mu'tazilite doctrine of complete freedom also ignores the relativity of freedom in relation to different individuals. The Jabrite notion of determinism goes against Islamic teachings and can be understood in the light of socio-political expediencies of the age. Iqbal has correctly analyzed and explained the reasons behind the denials of human freedom:

... The practical materialism of the opportunities Omayyad rulers of Damascus needed a peg on which to hang their misdeeds at Karbala, and to secure the fruits of Amir Mu'awiya's revolt against the possibilities of a popular rebellion. Ma'bad is reported to have said to Hasan of Basrah that the Omayyads killed Muslims, and attributed their acts to the decrees of God. 'These enemies of God,' replied Hasan, 'are liars'. Thus arose, in spite of open protests by Muslim divines a morally degrading fatalism, and the constitutional theory known as 'the accomplished fact' in order to support vested interests.'

It would be out of place here to go into the details of the issue of *jabr* and *qadar* (determinism and freedom). Absolute freedom belongs to God only, and He has given this power to man in various degrees according to individual human abilities. It is in this sense that freedom is termed by Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (A) and Imam Ali al-Rida (A) as *tafwid*, this is, delegated freedom. When Imam Ali (A) was asked to explain the difference between *qada* and *qadar*, he said: "The first means obedience to the Commandments of God and avoidance of sin; the latter, the ability to live a holy life and to do that which brings one nearer to God ... Say not that man is compelled, for that is attribution of tyranny to God."² Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (A) made the observation: "The doctrine of *jabr* (determinism) converts God into an unjust Master."³ However, these traditions cannot be interpreted as advocating absolute freedom for man. The latest scientific studies of the problem of freedom, both in metaphysical and political or social terms, arrive at the conclusion that freedom is always relative. No society or State can give absolute freedom to man in order to secure harmony and mutual respect of all the members. This mutual respect lays certain duties on man which are for the sake of granting equal freedom to everybody. The saying of Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (A): "There is neither *jabr* nor *qadar* or *tafwid*, but the matter is a via media between the two" can be interpreted both metaphysically and socially. Metaphysically, or rather theologically, it means that absolute freedom is for God only; man has been given limited freedom.

Socially and politically freedom is delimited by duties, and is not complete or absolute. Imam Ali ibn Musa al-Rida sums up the issue in the following words: "You are at liberty to take one or

the other path, ... but man has not the capacity of turning evil into good, or sin into virtue."⁴ Thus we may conclude that man is free, but his own freedom demands of him to fulfil certain obligations towards himself, towards other fellow beings, and ultimately, towards God. Freedom is meaningless if one does not fulfil these obligations. All human rights become due to man when he exercises his freedom to shoulder the duties he is expected to perform

Iqbal, was an atrocity against Islam and Quranic teaching. All forms of government and society which deny freedom to individuals represent a gross violation of Islam. How far a State or society is prepared to allow its members freedom determines its Islamic character.

The following are corollaries of human freedom:

1. Every man is able to perform an act he wills and chooses to do.

power to do it, and they are also free to do or not to do what they are commanded.⁵

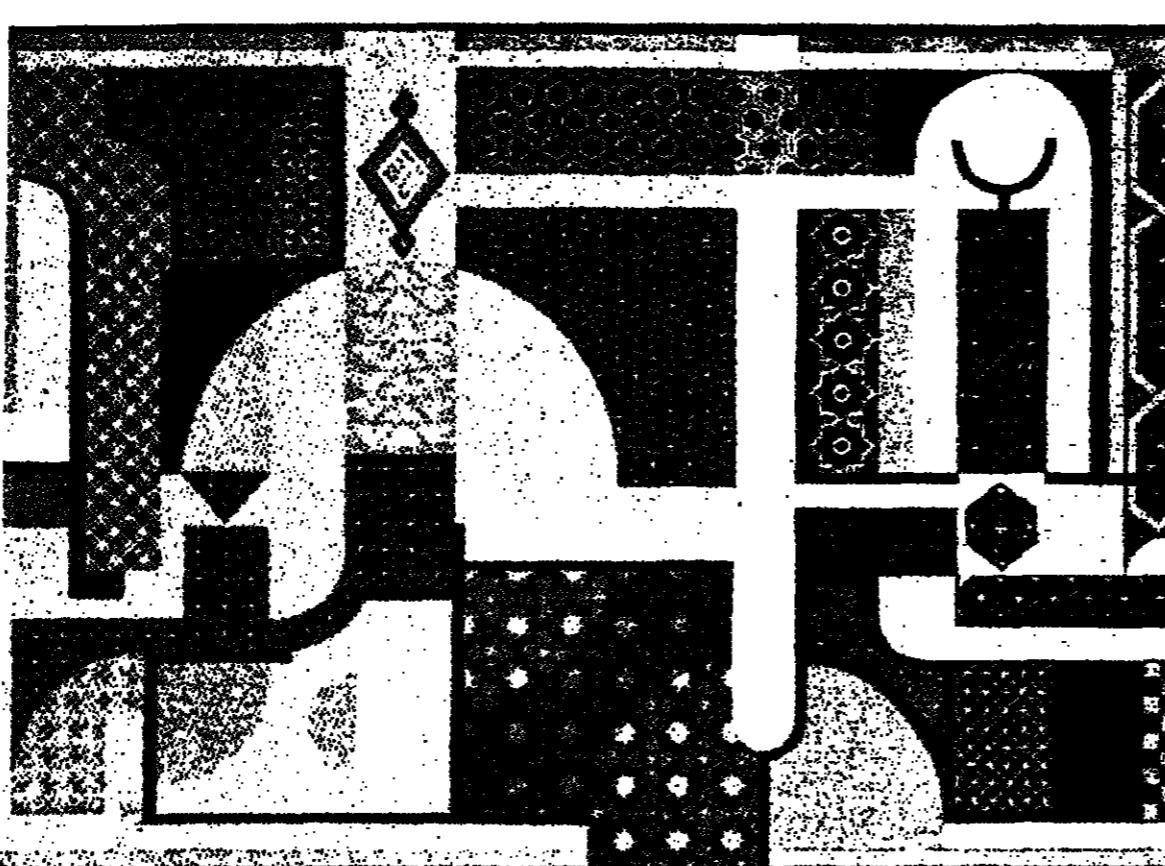
The practical side of freedom is related to man's individual as well as social duties. Every duty requires as its prerequisite condition freedom and the power to fulfil it which is called 'right' in legal terms. As the right to have the freedom and power to perform desired acts is termed a natural right, the freedom and power to perform social duties is termed

freedom remains an empty concept without the right to act within a particular framework. Freedom assumes a definite meaning in each ideology according to its conception and practice of human rights.

Human Rights: A Comparison of the Western and Islamic Views and Practices:

The declaration of human rights, a result of the French Revolution, was completed on August 26, 1789. The two fundamental doctrines which gave the declaration its force as the gospel of the Revolution were those of the natural rights of man and national sovereignty. The natural rights stated in the preamble were held as inalienable and sacred, because they were considered to be inherent to human nature. These rights were defined in the article II as those to liberty, property, security, and the right to resist oppression. Liberty included two aspects, individual liberty and the freedom of opinion. Freedom of speech, liberty of press and expression of religious opinions were secured in articles X and XI. Though article I proclaimed all men to be equal in rights, it did not assert their political or social equality. As the French Revolution was mainly led by the business class which had grievances against the feudal class, the authors of the declaration were perhaps not ready to grant equal political rights to all classes. However, clauses VII-IX secured the principle of equality before law, while clauses VI and XIII established the principles of civic and fiscal equality.⁶

In order to understand the loopholes in this declaration, we have to discuss at some length how the various types of rights are distinguished from one another. In



by his Creator, his fellow beings, and his own nature.

However, whatsoever may be the degree and extent of freedom accorded to man, he is free and, consequently, responsible for his acts. The Umayyads' attempt to justify fatalism, as described by

2. Every man who performs an act is able to perform its opposite also.

3. Every man who is obliged to do a certain act is awarded the power to do it.

4. Even those who do not obey Divine command are given the

civil rights, the freedom to act in relation to the State is called political right, and freedom to defend one's rights in courts is termed legal right. Right is based on freedom, for it calls on men to fulfil certain duties. Rights are meaningless without freedom and

NOTES:

1. 'Allamah Iqbal, *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam* (Lahore: Muhammad Ashraf, May 1971) p. 111.

2. Seyed Ameer 'Ali, *op.cit.*, pp. 409-10.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 411.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 412.

5. Shaykh al-Ta'ifah Muhammad ibn al-Hasan al-Tusi, *Tamhid al-'usul*, translated with introduction by 'Abd al-Muhsin Mishkat al-Dini (Tehran: Anjuman-e Islam Hikmat wa Falsafeh-e Iran, 1358 Sh.), pp. 267-383. All points enumerated in the article are discussed in detail with rational arguments in these pages, which may be referred to for gaining a better insight into the problems and their Shia Imami solutions.

6. Goodwin, *The French Revolution* (London: Hutchinson University Library, fifth ed. reprinted 1974), pp. 74-75.

7. *The Encyclopedia Americana* (U.S.A., American Corporation, 1963 ed.), XXIII, 518-19.

8. *Ibid.*, XXIII, 512-22.

To be Continued

CONDOLENCES

We learned of the sudden death of the renowned scholar, Dr. Seyed Waheed Akhtar, the author of the essay 'Freedom in the Islamic Framework of Human Rights', and wish to express the heartfelt condolences of IRAN NEWS management and staff to the members of the bereaved family.

(Courtesy *Actualite en France*)